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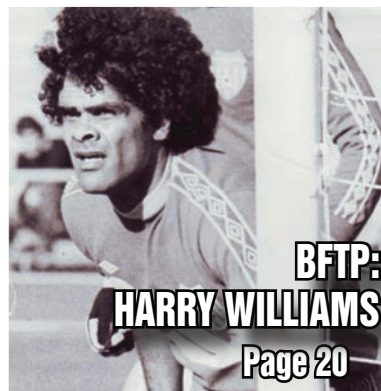
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PHOTO: KEITH EIGELAND

**THE RACE FOR FINALS HEATS UP WITH ONLY 8 ROUNDS TO GO**

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# Australian sport rocked by drugs, match fixing

Professional sport in Australia is set to be rocked after an investigation uncovered widespread use of performance enhancing drugs.

A federal government press conference on Thursday revealed the Australian Crime Commission has conducted a 12-month investigation into the link between drugs and professional sport entitled 'Organised Crime and Drugs in Sport'.

Minister for Justice Jason Clare has described the findings of the report as 'disgusting' and said that the distribution and use of performance enhancing drugs has been widespread and involves 'a number of athletes across a number of codes'.

Legal constraints prevent the identification of any particular code, particular teams or particular athletes, but Minister Clare emphasised that no code was immune.

The heads of the major sporting bodies were at the announcement of the report with Cricket Australia CEO James Sutherland,



AFL CEO Andrew Demetriou, ARU CEO Bill Pulver, NRL CEO David Smith and FFA CEO David Gallop all voicing their shock at the outcomes of the report.

"These are serious matters that require immediate action and the development of a longer term plan," a statement from COM-PPS, which represents all the major sporting bodies, said. "The integrity of sport as a

whole, and our specific codes, is paramount. We have commenced taking action and will work closely with the government on a longer term plan."

As a result of the magnitude of the inquiry, the federal government has doubled ASADA's resources to tackle this issue. Sports scientists are set to be at the centre of the ASADA investigations, while the ACC

has confirmed that criminal offences have been disclosed by players during the course of their investigation.

"The ACC has identified specific high-performance staff, sports scientists and coaches within some codes who have condoned and/or orchestrated the administration of prohibited substances, and substances not yet approved for human consumption, to play-

ers," the report said.

"In some cases, peptides and other substances were administered to players without them understanding the nature of the substances, and without the knowledge of the team doctor or club medical staff."

The involvement of organised crime has also raised the spectre of match fixing with the government and all sporting codes moving to beef up integrity measures. The release of the report comes just two days after it was revealed that the AFL club Essendon had referred its concerns over 'supplements' administered in 2012 by a former employee to its players to ASADA.

That ASADA inquiry reportedly involves the use of peptides, one of the substances revealed in the ACC report as central to the sports doping issue.

Any athlete found to have breached WADA protocols faces a minimum two-year ban from professional sport.

## Socceroos succumb to Romania



A stunning late free-kick from Romanian midfielder Gabriel Torge has seen Romania come from behind to down the Qantas

Socceroos 3-2 in Malaga, Spain.

The midfielder took advantage of a foul on the edge of the area by Rhys Williams and left Adam Federici, who came on at halftime for Mark Schwarzer stranded, as the ball curled into the top left corner of his net.

In an unhappy night for Williams in his return to the national fold, he was also partially culpable for Romania's equaliser when he was beaten to the ball by Bogdan Stancu in the 79th minute of the match.

The Socceroos had actually done well to get back into the match after being dominated by Romania in the opening stages and eventually going behind 1-0 thanks to a Cristian Tanase goal

after Mark Schwarzer spilled a regulation save.

The Socceroos would hit back late in the first half, after Alex Brosque won a penalty that was duly converted by Luke Wilkshire to head into the break at 1-1.

They would then come out firing in the second half with Robert Cornthwaite once again on the spot when it mattered for his country, firing the Socceroos to a 2-1 lead before Romania ultimately overpowered the Socceroos in the end.

Next month, the Qantas Socceroos resume their FIFA World Cup qualification quest against Oman at Sydney's Stadium Australia on Tuesday, 26 March. Kickoff is at 7.30pm local time.

**Romania 3: Tanase 34, Stancu 79, Torge 83 def Qantas**

**Socceroos 2: Wilkshire 44' (pen) Cornthwaite 53'**



Socceroo Luke Wilkshire scores from the spot.

## Roar raise \$63,000 for Red Cross Queensland Floods Appeal



Brisbane Roar is delighted to announce it has raised \$63,354.90 from Friday night's Hyundai A-League

match against the Central Coast Mariners for the Red Cross Queensland Floods Appeal 2013.

Brisbane's owners, the Indonesian-based Bakrie Group, pledged a guaranteed \$40,000 prior to kick-off to ensure the fundraising efforts got off to the perfect start.

Given the recent devastating floods in Jakarta, the Bakrie Group's support of those affected by the recent devastating weather in Queensland underlined their support of Queenslanders.

Football Federation Australia also pledged \$10,000 to the fundraising efforts.

Further funds were raised from ticket sale profits, proceeds from match program sales and contributions from fans attending the match on the night.

The club's Hyundai A-League and Westfield W-League squads also generously contributed to the fund. Part of the Hyundai A-League squad's contribution included donating the \$500 man-of-the-match award.

Brisbane Roar's exclusive 1303 Club members, who sponsor the man-of-the-match award, doubled the amount to bring the total to \$1000.

The club's administration staff also



contributed their Social Club fund to the appeal.

Brisbane Roar General Manager Sean Dobson said he was extremely proud of the efforts of the club and its fans to help out those who had their lives turned upside down by the extreme weather and flooding.

"When everyone pulls together for a common goal, you can achieve great things," Dobson said.

"The entire club worked hard over the week and this result is a fantastic reflection of the everyone's efforts."

"I'd like to thank the Bakrie Group, FFA, the 1303 Club members, the playing and administration staff for their efforts and generosity for those in need."

"Most importantly I'd like to thank our fans for their support of the club in this endeavour and the people of Queensland, many of

whom have lost everything for the second time in two years.

"A result like this makes you feel proud to be part of such an amazing club and state."

Red Cross QLD Chairman John Pinney said he was delighted with the generous contribution generated by the football family.

"The generosity of Brisbane Roar, the Football Federation of Australia and Queensland's family of football supporters shows the strong community spirit that has emerged from this crisis," Pinney said.

"This major donation will contribute much needed funds to help flood affected communities recover from this devastating disaster." Brisbane Roar would like to thank everyone who contributed to such a deserving cause.

## SHORT PASSES

### SFC to wear one-off Community Strip



Sydney FC will take to the field in its 200th Hyundai A-League game on Sunday against Brisbane Roar in a one-off "Community Strip" designed by a Sky Blues Member that will help raise money for Sydney FC Community Partner, Children's Medical Research Institute (CMRI).

The all-white strip with sky blue pin stripes and royal blue sleeves was designed by Cove member Adam Waite and selected from over 1,000 entries submitted through an adidas miteam facebook competition in November last year.

### PLFC Juniors Registration Day- this Sunday!

The Preston Lions Football Club will be holding its annual Juniors Registration Day for all age groups this Sunday the 10th of February 2013 (10am-1pm).

We're encouraging boys and girls of all ages and backgrounds to come along for what should be a fun and exciting day which will include FREE specialised coaching clinics from the world recognised COERVER® Coaching Program, FREE Sausage Sizzle for participating kids and a special guest appearance by a senior Melbourne Heart player who will be available for photos, autographs and Q&A on the day.

AGE GROUPS: All Boys & Girls (Under 6's to Under 18's)

WHEN: Sunday 10th February 2013

TIME: 10am-1pm

WHERE: Main Pitch @ B.T. Connor Reserve (Corner Broadhurst Avenue & Radford Road, Reservoir)

### Pasfield puts pen to paper



Goalkeeper Justin Pasfield will remain with Central Coast Mariners for a further Hyundai A-League season after he put pen

to paper on a new one-season deal with Club.

27-year-old Pasfield has played eight matches for the Mariners in the past two Hyundai A-League seasons, and earns his extension by virtue of his displays during these outings combined with his commitment and professionalism in training.

### Update Sage Health



Perth Glory is aware of media articles and other commentary regarding the health of Chairman, Tony Sage.

While a private matter, Perth Glory can confirm

that Tony, who is currently travelling overseas on business, will enter hospital next week for a heart procedure.

Tony is expected to make a full recovery from this procedure and will be in attendance at the next Perth Glory home game versus Central Coast Mariners on 16 February 2013.

He appreciates the well wishes and messages of support from fans and sponsors, and reaffirms his 100% commitment to Perth Glory and believes the team can still play a meaningful part in the upcoming Hyundai A-League finals series.



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# UEFA inquiry into sponsorship deals highlights problematic fight against corruption

By James Dorsey

The Union of European Football Associations (UEFA), Europe's governing soccer body, is looking at possible violations of its fair value rule in sponsorship deals concluded by two of the continent's foremost Gulf-owned clubs, Manchester City and Paris St. Germain (PSG), with state-owned entities in Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

The UEFA inquiry comes against the rocking of world soccer by multiple scandals in the past two years, including revelations this week of a massive match fixing scheme by Asian and European syndicates.

Friedhelm Althans, a German sports betting expert and one of the investigators of the match fixing scandal, told Der Spiegel that the scheme spotlighted the failure of UEFA and world soccer body FIFA to counter match fixing with software that would detect suspicious betting activity and spreads. Experts said the system identified questionable larger bets but was blind when the fraud involved a large amount of smaller bets in a number of different locations.

The UEFA inquiry also comes amid renewed controversy over Qatar's winning of the 2022 World Cup that highlights the kind of relationships that make the rooting out of corruption and introduction of more transparent and accountable soccer governance difficult.

FIFA ethics investigator Michael J. Garcia said last month that he was reviewing allegations of wrongdoing by Qatar in its successful bid for the 2022 World Cup. A

lengthy report in a French soccer magazine alleged corruption, but in effect only regurgitated facts that had been public for a long time. While those facts raise questions, they fail to constitute a case against Qatar.

The inquiry involves PSG's \$200 million a year deal with the Qatar Tourism Authority and Manchester's \$625 million arrangement with Etihad, the Abu Dhabi airline. PSG is owned by Qatar Sports Investments (QSI), a state entity, while Manchester City was acquired by a member of the UAE royal family.

UEFA's fair value rule is designed to prevent owners from circumventing its Financial Fair Play rules by injecting cash into their clubs using entities under their control. The issue involved in the inquiry is the fact that the distinction between ownership of the two clubs and the entities involved in the sponsorship deals are blurry at best.

"We have a regulation which speaks about fair value of deals and the fact that a related party cannot just inject money into a club directly or indirectly," said UEFA secretary general Gianni Infantino. Nevertheless, the multiple scandals in soccer in recent years coupled with the failure of efforts to combat match fixing cast a shadow over the UEFA inquiry in an environment in which few are willing to give senior soccer officials the benefit of the doubt.

In the case of UEFA, widely seen within the soccer community as a model of good governance, that environment is fuelled in part by the fact that in the walk-up to the awarding of the World Cup then French president Nicolas Sarkozy invited Qatar's



crown prince, Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad al-Thani, and UEFA president Michel Platini to the Elysée Palace for a lunch attended by Sebastien Bazin, the European representative of PSG's then majority American owners Colony Capital.

The lunch, media reports and sources said, was designed to salvage the financially troubled club at a time that it was hemorrhaging an estimated €20m a year. It crowned several months of efforts by Mr. Bazin to rekindle Qatari interest in acquiring the financially troubled club.

On the table, the reports and sources said, was a three-way deal: Qatar would acquire PSG and step up its already substantial investments in France, Mr. Platini, a member of world soccer body FIFA's executive committee, whose son has since joined QSI as its legal counsel, would vote in favor of Qatar's bid to host the World Cup; and Qatar's state-owned Al Jazeera television network would have an opportunity to buy a stake in France's Ligue 1 broadcast rights.

Mr. Sarkozy "was very interested in the dossier. He was keen because these people wanted to invest in France, but also because he's a (PSG) supporter," then Elysée spokesman Franck Louvri r was quoted as saying.



UEFA Secretary General Gianni Infantino

None of this necessarily crosses a red line, but it is illustrative of the existing cozy relationships in soccer in which perceptions of potential conflict of interest are unavoidable.

The match fixing scandal challenges soccer officials to crackdown on fraudulent schemes and an opportunity to be seen as enforcing good governance. The stakes for groups like FIFA and UEFA are high. Much of the recent scandals occurred from the perspective of fans in the out-of-reach stratospheres of world soccer. Match fixing is an issue in stadiums where they go to watch matches and in their homes where they see the game on their television screen.

"Fixing and corruption in sport has a long history. However, we of this generation, are facing something almost entirely new.

It is a contemporary form of match-fixing - as if someone had taken fixing and injected it with steroids.... The key to the new form of fixing is globalization. In the last ten years, the sports gambling market has - like the music and travel industry - been utterly transformed. Now, gamblers in any part of the world can place a bet on almost any professional sports event in almost any country of the world," said journalist Declan Hill in an article on the BBC Sports website.

Mr. Hill first revealed the role of Singaporeans in match-fixing in his book, The Fix. "If we do not fight (match fixing) properly, it will destroy many sports as we know them. This new form of corruption will, like a tsunami, sweep aside all other issues and leave some sports dead and destroyed," Mr. Hill warned.

## MATIAS CORDOBA JOINS PERTH GLORY



Perth Glory are delighted to announce Matias Jesus Cordoba has signed a contract with the club until the end of 2012/13 Hyundai A-League season. Since arriving in Perth on January 26, the Argentinian play-maker has impressed coach Ian Ferguson. Cordoba will wear number 18 for Perth Glory.

## AFC ASIAN CUP AUSTRALIA 2015 QUALIFYING BEGINS

The road to AFC Asian Cup Australia 2015 has started with 10 qualifying matches played mid-week.

Big winners on Match Day 1 included Iran, who defeated Lebanon 5-0 to go to the top of Group B and Jordan, who beat Singapore 4-0 in Amman.

The round of qualifying matches was the first of six that will be played over the next 13 months to determine the qualifiers for AFC Asian Cup Australia 2015.

The next round of qualifiers will begin on March 22.

The top two teams from each group and the best third-placed team among all the groups will join Australia, Japan, South Korean, DPR Korea and the winners of the AFC Challenge Cup 2014 in Australia for AFC Asian Cup 2015.

The AFC Asian Cup Australia 2015 will be played in Australia from 9-31 January 2015. Matches in the 16-nation tournament will be played across five stadiums in Queensland, NSW, ACT and Victoria.

The AFC Asian Cup 2015 is being jointly-funded by the Australian Gov-



ernment and the Queensland, NSW, ACT and Victorian Governments.

Jordan 4-0 Singapore  
Oman 1-0 Syria  
IR Iran 5-0 Lebanon  
Thailand 1-3 Kuwait  
Iraq 1-0 Indonesia  
Saudi Arabia 2-1 China PR  
Qatar 2-0 Malaysia  
Yemen 0-2 Bahrain  
Uzbekistan 0-0 Hong Kong  
Vietnam 1-2 UAE



Western Sydney Wanderers winger Youssof Hersi has agreed to extend his stay with the club for another season.

Hersi, 30, said he was enjoying his football playing for the Wanderers and his decision to commit for the 2013/14 season was an easy one. "I am very happy to be in Australia and to be a part of this Club," Hersi said. "I enjoy every minute here and that is one of the main reasons I want to stay.

"The crowd and the supporters at Parramatta Stadium are fantastic. "They enjoy watching us play so much it just makes me so happy. When I see how much they want us to win I just keep pushing and keep running cause I can't let them down. I don't want to lose one game."

Hersi said he was particularly grateful to coach Tony Popovic and his assistant Ante Milicic.

"The coaches have helped me a lot after my injury (knee reconstruction)," he said. "They have helped me and supported me and Tony and Ante have been great to me and they had faith in me."

Hersi said he wanted to help the team achieve as much as possible. "I want to win something with the Wanderers if not this year then next year and beyond," Hersi said. "It is hard for us coming together from different places but we are good now and things are working very well."

## Hersi extends Wanderers stay



Fan favourite Youssof Hersi. Photo: ALI ERHAN

The Ethiopian-born Dutch national has scored four goals so far this season and has tallied the second highest number of goal assists in the league with seven. Popovic said Hersi was a real character and he had fitted in well to the Wanderers' Club dynamic. Popovic said he and Milicic identified the potential in Hersi when he trialed with the Club after things had not worked out for him in Europe.

"Ante and I saw there were qualities in him," Popovic said. "We knew it would take him time to adjust but with his tremendous work rate he has progressed very well into an integral part of our squad.

"I think he is really enjoying his football and we are enjoying having him here."

Executive chairman Lyall Gorman said Hersi was fast becoming the fan's favourite on and off the park.

"His attacking flair and work rate has been a tremendous hit with his team mates and fans; and off the field his jovial personality endears him to all," Gorman said. "The Hyundai A-League needs characters and there is no doubt that Hersi is an outstanding and unique personality for the game at all levels.

"Not a week goes by where we do not get correspondence from our members saying how much they love the free spirited and entertaining way he plays the game and the way that nothing is too small for him when mixing with fans off the field.

"He is an integral part of our team and his extending his contract with the club continues to provide the stability and certainty for our playing squad, coaching staff, commercial partners, members and fans."

## SHORT PASSES

### GRANT RECEIVES NAB NOMINATION



Sydney FC defender Rhyan Grant has been named as the fourth nominee for the 2012/13 NAB Young Footballer of the Year Award.

Grant was voted the most outstanding U21 player in the Hyundai A-League for the month of January following a series of standout performances, highlighted by his last minute winner against Melbourne Heart at Allianz Stadium.

The 2010 Championship winner has excelled in different positions under coach Frank Farina, earning recognition from the judges despite playing as a right back, left back, midfielder and central defender during January.

The 21-year-old has played 65 Hyundai A-League matches for the Sky Blues and is enjoying a breakout season in 2012/13.

### Tadic, Mitchinson join injured list, Gray Released and Coyne joins



Melbourne Heart FC will be without the Club's top scorer Josip Tadic for the next four to six weeks with a broken toe.

Tadic suffered the injury during the first half of last weekend's Melbourne Derby and was replaced in the 32nd minute by Golgol Mebrathu. The silver lining is that Tadic is likely to avoid surgery but will still require longer term rehabilitation.

In a double blow for Heart, 20-year-old left back Sam Mitchinson suffered a quadricep strain yesterday which will see him miss up to four weeks.

Mitchinson has played a part in six matches this season, covering for left-back Aziz Behich when he was on international duty and then after Heart's erstwhile number 16 completed a move to Turkish Super Lig side Bursaspor last week.

Mitchinson and Tadic join Dylan Macallister (adductor), Simon Colosimo (calf) and Fred (quad strain) on the sidelines while Mate Dugandzic (foot) has been sidelined for the rest of the season.

The Club has also released 31-year-old central defender Steven Gray with the player and Club parting ways by mutual consent.

With the January transfers of Behich and Michael Marrone, the release of Gray and injury to Mitchinson, Heart has signed a replacement in former Sydney FC and Perth Glory defender Jaime Coyne, 32, who has recently returned to Australia from a stint with Indonesia Super League club Sriwijaya.



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## SCOREBOARD

## TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Central Coast Mariners	19	11	6	2	31	14	17	39
2 Melbourne Victory	19	11	3	5	33	29	4	36
3 West Sydney Wanderers	19	11	2	6	26	16	10	35
4 Adelaide United	19	10	2	7	30	28	2	32
5 Newcastle Jets	19	6	5	8	23	31	-8	23
6 Brisbane Roar	19	6	3	10	23	24	-1	21
7 Melbourne Heart	19	6	3	10	24	27	-3	21
8 Sydney FC	19	6	3	10	30	39	-9	21
9 Wellington Phoenix	19	5	5	9	22	32	-10	20
10 Perth Glory	19	5	4	10	18	20	-2	19

THIS  
WEEK

ROUND 19  
Fri Feb 01  
Sat Feb 02  
Sat Feb 02  
Sat Feb 02  
Sun Feb 03

## FIXTURE

Brisbane Roar v Central Coast Mariners  
Wellington Phoenix v Perth Glory  
Newcastle Jets v Sydney FC  
Melbourne Victory v Melbourne Heart  
Adelaide Utd Western v W Sydney Wanderers

## VENUE

Suncorp Stadium  
Eden Park  
Hunter Stadium  
Etihad Stadium  
Hindmarsh Stadium

## LOCAL

7:00pm  
5:00pm  
5:30pm  
7:45pm  
4:30pm

## AEDT

8:00pm  
3:00pm  
5:30pm  
7:45pm  
5:00pm

NEXT  
WEEK

ROUND 20  
Thu Feb 07  
Fri Feb 08  
Sat Feb 09  
Sat Feb 09  
Sun Feb 10

## FIXTURE

Central Coast Mariners v Wellington Phoenix  
Adelaide United v Melbourne Victory  
Melbourne Heart v Perth Glory  
W Sydney Wanderers v Newcastle Jets  
Sydney FC v Brisbane Roar

## VENUE

Bluetongue Stadium  
Hindmarsh Stadium  
AAMI Park  
Campbelltown Stadium  
Allianz Stadium

## LOCAL

7:00pm  
7:00pm  
5:30pm  
7:45pm  
5:00pm

## AEDT

7:00pm  
7:30pm  
5:30pm  
7:45pm  
5:00pm

## ROUND 19 RESULTS

**Brisbane Roar 2** (Besart Berisha 46, 64)

**Central Coast Mariners 2** (Michael McGlinchey 8, Daniel McBreen 80)

Crowd: 10,604 @Suncorp Stadium

**Adelaide United 2** (Djite 60, Ramsay 87)

**Western Sydney 4** (Hersi 43, 52, Bridge 45, Poljak 68)  
Crowd: 9,686 @Hindmarsh Stadium

**Melbourne Victory 2** (Thompson '29, Milligan 55')

**Melbourne Heart 1** (Williams '72)

Crowd: 41,203 @ Etihad Stadium

**Newcastle Jets 2** (Griffiths 15pen, 89pen)

**Sydney FC 2** (Del Piero 11, Powell 57)  
Crowd 12, 428 @ Hunter Stadium

**Wellington Phoenix 1** (Brockie 41)

**Perth Glory 0**

Crowd: 11,566 at Eden Park, Auckland

## TOP GOAL SCORERS

- 14 - Daniel McBREEN (Mariners)  
11 - Marco ROJAS (Victory)  
Jeremy BROCKIE (Phoenix)  
10 - Alessandro DEL PIERO (SFC)  
Besart BERISHA (Roar)  
8 - Dario VIDOSIC (Adelaide)  
Emile HESKEY (Jets)  
Ryan GRIFFITHS (Jets)  
7 - Mark BRIDGE (Wanderers)  
Archie THOMPSON (Victory)



In ding-dong battle at Suncorp between heavyweight tilting title aspirants of late, last year's Golden Boot winner Besart Berisha notches a brace to keep his season alive.

## A-LEAGUE TEAM OF THE WEEK Round 19

Compiled by  
Steven Talevski



**GK: Nathan Coe** – Kept Melbourne Heart goalless in the early stages of the game with a string of terrific saves allowing his side to build a lead.

**RB: Scott Galloway** – At only 17 years old and a few weeks as part of the squad, Galloway did tremendously well on debut in front of 41 000 people to help the blue side of Melbourne to a derby victory.

**CB: Leigh Broxham** – After starting the game in midfield, Broxham was forced to move into the centre of defence after an injury to Nick Ansell and filled her shoes well.

**CB: Nikolai Topor-Stanley** – With Wanderers captain Michael Beauchamp out injured, Topor-Stanley took the captains armband and led Western Sydney to third spot on the table after defeating Adelaide United at Hindmarsh.

**LB: Shane Stefanutto** – Stefanutto was back to his best as an attacking threat down the wing for the Roar supplying his attack with several crosses including one which Berisha put into the back of the net.

**CDM: Michael McGlinchey** – McGlinchey had a typical hard working performance against the Roar, and got himself on the score sheet early in the game as the Mariners equalised late to get a point away from home.

**RAM: Alessandro Del Piero** – Sydney's marquee man had another standout game, scoring one and being involved in another as the Sky Blues picked up a point away to Newcastle.

**LAM: Ryan Griffiths** – The attacker did what he does best on the weekend, scoring two goals, including one from the spot, and being an attacking threat through his terrific work effort.

**RW: Youssouf Hersi** – Hersi had a man of the match performance against Adelaide, scoring twice and assisting Mark Bridge for his goal.

**ST: Besart Berisha** – Despite almost receiving a second yellow in the game, Berisha was back to his best scoring a double and almost scoring a late winner.

**LW: Archie Thompson** – The Soccerroo was in fine form in the derby, scoring the game's opener while always seeming to be a threat alongside his attacking partner Marco Rojas.

**Coach: Tony Popovic** – Another week, another Goal! Weekly coach of the week for Popovic, as he led his Western Sydney side to a 4-2 victory to overtake Adelaide United in third spot with a dominant performance.

## Star Man

Yousouf Hersi  
Wanderers



The former Dutch youth international had a man of the match performance for the Wanderers as he lays his claims for import of the season. His two goals and assist for Mark Bridge handed Western Sydney a three nil lead as they went on to defeat Adelaide and bridge gap between them and first place.

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## Brisbane Roar



2

## CC Mariners



2

## Match Details

**Brisbane Roar 2** (Besart Berisha 47', 69')

**Central Coast Mariners 2** (Michael McGlinchey 9', Daniel McBreen 80')  
Friday, 1 February 2013  
Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane  
Referee: Lucien Lavendure  
Crowd: 10,604

**Brisbane Roar:** 1. Michael Theo (Gk), 3. Shane Stefanutto (C), 4. Matt Jurman (19. Jack Hingert 46'), 5. Ivan Franjic, 7. Besart Berisha, 8. Massimo Muroccca (11. Ben Halloran 9'), 13. Jade North, 14. Steven Lustica (9. Stef Nijland 64'), 17. Mitch Nichols, 18. Luke Brattan, 22. Thomas Broich

Substitutes Not Used: 20. Matt Acton  
Yellow Cards: Besart Berisha 13', Matt Jurman 30', Steven Lustica 34', Ivan Franjic 42', Shane Stefanutto 83'  
Red Cards: Nil

**Central Coast Mariners:** 1. Mathew Ryan (Gk), 2. Daniel McBreen, 3. Joshua Rose, 5. Zachary Anderson, 6. Patrick Zwaanswijk, 7. John Hutchinson (C), 9. Bernie Ibini, 11. Oliver Bozanic (17. Anthony Caceres 60'), 14. Michael McGlinchey, 16. Trent Sainsbury (13. Brent Griffiths 90+4'), 21. Mile Sterjovski (19. Mitchell Duke 55')

Substitutes Not Used: 20. Justin Pasfield (Gk)  
Yellow Cards: Oliver Bozanic 32', Trent Sainsbury 55', Michael McGlinchey 86'  
Red Cards: Nil

# Berisha Brace Not Enough to Sink Mariners

By Jarrod Ellis

Affairs ended even at Suncorp Stadium on Friday night as Brisbane and Central Coast fought out a 2-2 draw.

In what has undeniably been the most significant of matchups in recent seasons, goals in either half from Michael McGlinchey and Daniel McBreen were balanced by a Besart Berisha brace.

On this occasion however this match-up didn't carry the same importance as previous years with Brisbane entering the match far from title contention and the Mariners favourites to secure only their sixth win in thirty starts against the Roar.

New Roar signing Stefan Nijland started the game on the bench, having only arrived in Brisbane on Thursday.

The match also marked the first appearance of Jade North for his new club, the defender having arrived in early January but left out of the match day squad until having returned to full fitness. Despite North's presence Brisbane remained unable to field their first choice central defensive pairing with captain Matt Smith left out due to injury.

Once underway the action came at a frenetic pace, Massimo Muroccca an early casualty after a tackle from Trent Sainsbury. The diminutive midfielder was replaced by Ben Halloran in the seventh minute, but as the change was about to be made the Mariners struck for their goal.

Displaying their devastating efficiency on the counter John Hutchinson streaked down the flank from a corner before he crossed into the area. Mathew Jurman reached the ball first but a bad first touch delivered the ball into the path of Michael McGlinchey and he had no difficulty dispatching his shot to Michael Theo's right.

Brisbane was lucky to escape a dangerous situation in the 14th minute when Jade North appeared to bring down McGlinchey as the two chased the ball on the way to the penalty area. Match referee Lucien Lavendure ruled no foul but the Mariners certainly had reason to complain.

Matt Ryan received his first real test of the match in the 18th minute, a mishit free-kick from Luke Brattan almost making its way into the top corner of the net.



Roar's Beshart Berish celebrates his first goal (main picture) after heading home from a tight angle (Inset). Photo: KEITH EIGELAND

There were tense moments for Brisbane a few minutes later when it appeared that Besart Berisha might receive a second yellow for a nudge on Daniel McBreen at a free kick, but the Albanian firebrand escaped with a warning.

Play flowed from end to end as the half wore on but neither side was able to find the sharpness to break down the oppositions defence. Brisbane had the better of possession and did threaten from set pieces and high balls into the box for Berisha but the Mariners defence held firm.

The Mariners themselves consistently found space down the flanks, Bernie Ibini and McGlinchey in particular gave the Roar problems out wide.

Central Coast had a chance to extend their lead in first half injury time, Daniel McBreen having a shot saved from Michael Theo after being setup inside the area by Oliver Bozanic.

Mariners would have been ruining that missed chance when Brisbane equalised only a minute and a half into the second stanza. A Luke Brattan corner passed through the middle of the penalty area to Thomas Broich on the opposite side. The German danced around two defenders before lifting a pass to Berisha at the near post and the striker made the most of the opportunity turning the ball into the net.

The pass for the goal marked Broich's eighth assist of the season, most in the A-League, and despite Brisbane's

struggles this year the Broich-Berisha combination remains one of the most dangerous in the A-League.

Brisbane had the better of the opening stages and Mitch Nichols should have done better with a defence splitting pass from Brattan that left Nichols with space to shoot on the right of the Mariners penalty box. Nichols first touch let him down and with the ball bouncing behind him the chance was lost.

Brisbane did take the lead in the 68th minute though, Besart Berisha this time converting a low cross from Shane Stefanutto at the near post after an excellent pass from Stefan Nijland that found Stefanutto down the left hand side.

Brisbane looked to be heading for a surprise win but the Mariners continued to press for an equaliser and it arrived in the final moments of regulation time. A cutback on the left of the Brisbane penalty area by Mitchell Duke was flicked on intelligently by Zachary Anderson and a lurking McBreen finished from the right of the penalty spot.

Joshua Rose had a chance to steal a win for the Mariners, but despite being played through the defence his shot was too close to Theo.

Neither side was able to find a winner and with the points shared Central Coast moved six clear at the top and Brisbane moved into the top-six if only temporarily.

Match Stats		
2	Saves	6
9	Attempts on target	2
14	Attempts off target	2
53%	Possession	47%
14	Corners	2
1	Offsides	2
8	Fouls committed	10



Take That! Daniel McBreen equalizes late in the game to deny the Roar victory. Photo: KEITH EIGELAND



Mariners celebrate Michael McGlinchey's opener. Photo: KEITH EIGELAND

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Wellington Phoenix

1



Perth Glory

0

Match Details

Wellington Phoenix 1  
(Brockie 41)  
Perth Glory 0  
Crowd: 11,566 at Eden Park, Auckland

Wellington Phoenix: 1.Mark Paston, 2.Manny Muscat, 4.Isaka Cernak, 7. Leo Bertos (21.Dani Sanchez 74'), 8.paul Ifill, 10. Stein Huysegems (Louis Fenton 61'), 11.Jeremy Brockie (12.Tyler Boyd 87'), 14.Ian HOgg, 17.Vince Lia, 18.Ben Sigmund, 22.Andrew Durante.

Yellow cards:Sigmund  
Red cards: None

Perth Glory: 1.Danny Vukovic, 2.Jack Clisby, 6.Nick Ward (5.Steve Pantelidis 70'), 10.Liam Miller, 11.Adrian Zahra (12.Ryo Nagai 61'), 13.Travis Dodd, 14.Steven McGarry, 17.Chris Harold, 19.Joshua Risdon, 21.Scott Jamieson (8.Dean Heffernan 70'), 23.Michael Thwaite.

Yellow cards: Jamieson  
Red cards: None

# Wellington wins basement battle with Perth

By FFA

Wellington Phoenix have lifted themselves off the bottom of the A-League table with a hard-fought 1-0 win over Perth Glory at Eden Park in Auckland on Saturday evening.

In the end a goal from Jeremy Brockie four minutes before half-time was all that separated the two sides after a scrappy, but always keenly contested, encounter.

The initial stages were played in a style befitting the teams occupying the bottom two rungs on the A-League ladder, with class and chances in short supply.

It took 10 minutes for the first opportunity of note, with Glory's Adrian Zahra finding space on the right and whipping in a ball for stand-in skipper Travis Dodd, who could only find the side-netting.

Nine minutes later, it was Perth's turn to defend when a lovely turn and back-heel in the box from Leo Bertos played in Paul Ifill, but he blazed his effort high and wide.

The Glory did not take long to get on the offensive, with Nick Ward launching a superb long-range pass to young striker Chris Harold, who blew past Manny Muscat but could only poke his effort just wide of Mark



For Your Eyes Only: Steve McGarry (Perth Glory) and Isaka Cernak (Phoenix) are under a ball-binding spell. Photo: TVNZ

Paston's upright.

The Phoenix were the better side in the closing stages of the half, with Stein Huysegems firing a volley wide after an Ian Hogg cross while Brockie also missed the target after some good work on the right from Isaka Cernak.

Wellington were coming on, and they went in front after 41 minutes thanks to some nice work again from Ifill.

He played in a tantalising cross, with Brockie drifting in behind Jack Clisby before heading past Danny

Vukovic to give his side a 1-0 lead at the interval.

Taking the lead gave the Phoenix a shot of confidence, and they emerged from the break looking to extend their advantage, but both sides were struggling to create meaningful chances.

Just before the hour mark, Zahra's shot took a deflection off Andrew Durante, but landed safely in the arms of Paston, and the 'keeper had to be on guard moments later when Clisby's long-range effort also took a diversion off a Phoe-

nix defender.

Substitute Louis Fenton had a chance in the 70th minute, but the youngster's left-foot strike flew well wide of Vukovic's post.

Steven McGarry and Liam Miller combined well for the Glory a minute later, and the latter should have done better with his shot from the edge of the box, which failed to test Paston.

Perth began pouring on the pressure in the closing stages, but it was Ifill who went closest to scoring when he beat a couple of Glory defenders and

almost curled a shot past Vukovic, but his effort was inches wide.

With Vukovic going forward in the hope of an equaliser, the Phoenix could have made sure of the points in stoppage time when Cernak fired from distance toward an unguarded goal, but it was cleared off the line.

Phoenix held on to post their first win in six matches, leapfrogging Perth into ninth spot while the men from the west are languishing at the foot of the table.



Phoenix players congratulate Jeremy Brockie Photo: TVNZ



Kiwi international Jeremey Brockie finds the back of the net. Photo: TVNZ



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Newcastle Jets

2

Sydney FC

2

Match Details

**Newcastle Jets 2** (Griffiths 16'pen, 89pen)  
**Sydney FC 2** (Del Piero 12', Powell 57')  
 At Hunter Stadium  
 Crowd: 12,428  
 Referee: Jarred Gillett  
 Man of the match: Alessandro Del Piero

**Newcastle Jets:** 2. Scott Neville (17. James Virgili 77'), 4. Josh Mitchell, 7. James Brown (19. Michael Bridges 59'), 8. Ruben Zadkovich (c), 9. Emile Heskey, 11. Connor Chapman, 12. Joshua Brillante (3. Zenon Caravella 77'), 15. Craig Goodwin, 20. Mark Birighitti (gk), 23. Ryan Griffiths, 26. Andrew Hoole

Substitutes not used: 30. Jack Duncan (gk)

**Sydney FC:** 2. Sebastian Ryall, 5. Nathan Sherlock, 8. Adam Griffiths, 10. Alessandro Del Piero, 12. Blake Powell, 15. Terry McFlynn (c), 17. Terry Antonis, 20. Vedran Janjetovic (gk), 22. Ali Abbas (9. Paul Reid 90+4), 23. Rhyann Grant, 26. Peter Triantis

Yellow cards: Griffiths 15' Grant 19', Abbas 45+1, Antonis 55'  
 Red cards: Terry McFlynn 89'  
 Substitutes not used: 1. Ivan Necevski, 16. Joel Chianese, 18. Trent McClenahan

# Jets Salvage Point Against Spirited Sydney FC

By Shaun Dyas

The Newcastle Jets and Sydney FC played out a pulsating 2-2 draw in front of 12,428 fans at a rain soaked and windswept Hunter Stadium.

The wild weather was matched with an equally crazy game which ended with the home side escaping with a draw thanks to a brace of penalties from Ryan Griffiths. Alessandro Del Piero and Blake Powell found the net for a Sydney side that could consider themselves desperately unlucky not to claim the three points.

Sydney ended the match with 10 men after skipper Terry McFlynn was sent off for handball on the goal line which led to Griffiths' match saving penalty.

Sydney coach Frank Farina was disappointed with how the match turned out.

"It is a hard one to take. To concede that late from another penalty was disappointing," he said. Newcastle coach Gary Van Egmond was frank in discussing his team's performance.

"It won't matter who we play next week, we will have to improve."

Earlier, the first real moment of the match came from the home side on 10 minutes. Andrew Hoole linked up with Ruben Zadkovich before he slid a ball into the feet of Ryan Griffiths. He squared the ball in search of Heskey but Sebastian Ryall cleared for a corner. Moments later Sydney took the lead. Connor Chapman was dispossessed deep in his own half by Terry McFlynn and Italian maestro Alessandro Del Piero did the rest, sliding his shot past a helpless Mark Birighitti in the Jets goal with barely 12 minutes on the clock.

Newcastle was given a fantastic opportunity immediately to equalise in the 16th minute. Rhyann



Ryan Griffiths makes no mistake from the spot as team mate Emile Heskey comes to share the glory . Photo: BEN NEVILLE

Grant clumsily fouled Griffiths inside the box with referee Jarred Gillett awarding the penalty. Griffiths dusted himself off and slotted past Vedran Janjetovic's left hand and into the side netting to restore parity. His brother, Sydney's Adam Griffiths was carded by Gillett for dissent before the penalty was taken.

The Jets had another opportunity in the 32nd minute. Sydney cleared a wicked Craig Goodwin corner straight to the waiting Josh Brillante. He controlled then bent a shot that was on target before being brilliantly headed away by young Peter Triantis on the post. Newcastle butchered a certain

goal on the stroke of 35 minutes. Griffiths streaked away down the right flank and had an unmarked Goodwin begging for the ball in the centre. Griffiths' ball was terribly over hit and the chance came to nothing.

Del Piero was close to doubling his tally in the 41st minute. Sydney were given a free kick and Del Piero, with the assistance of a howling southerly breeze smashed a strike on goal that Birighitti did brilliantly to punch clear for a corner.

Sydney started the 2nd half with a clever free kick routine that led to another fine save from Birighitti. Del Piero chipped the

ball down the line for Rhyann Grant who headed inside for Ali Abbas. His header was acrobatically tipped away by the Jets custodian. Sydney retook the lead in the 57th minute. The Jets simply didn't learn their lesson and squandered possession cheaply to Del Piero. He drove at the heart of the Jets defence before releasing Abbas who struck a fierce left footed drive that Birighitti could only parry into the path of Blake Powell and he tapped home from six yards.

Newcastle were really struggling to find a way back into the game and Gary Van Egmond reacted by bringing on both Zenon Caravella

and James Virgili for Josh Brillante and Scott Neville respectively. More controversy occurred in the 88th minute as the Jets were pressing. Griffiths fired a shot that was on target and Sydney skipper McFlynn appeared to use an elbow to stop the goal bound effort and was sent off. Griffiths put his penalty into the exact same spot of the net as his previous effort to salvage the game for the home side. Newcastle continued to press looking for the elusive winner but was unable to find it which meant Sydney left Hunter Stadium with the point they deserved.



Italian superstar Alessandro Del Piero is mobbed by Sydney FC teammates after scoring a another signature goal. Photo: PETER NEVILLE



Eyes at the ready Ryan Griffiths prepares to get some serious action with his laces as the master looks on. Photo: BEN NEVILLE

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Adelaide United



2

West Sydney



4

Match Details

**Adelaide United FC 2** (Djite 61', Ramsay 87')  
**Western Sydney Wanderers 4**  
 (Hersi 43'/53', Bridge 45', Poljak 68')  
 Referee: Chris Beath  
 Crowd: 9,686 @ Hindmarsh Stadium

**Adelaide United:** 1.Eugene Galekovic (gk) (c), 3.Nigel Boogaard, 4.Jon McKain (5.Iain Fyfe 70'), 6.Cassio, 8.Marcelo Carrusca, 10.Dario Vidusic, 12.Antony Golec, 14.Cameron Watson, 16.Daniel Bowles (11.Bruce Djite 46'), 17.Iain Ramsay, 23.Evan Kostopoulos (19.Jake Barker-Daish 82')  
 Substitutes not used: 30.John Hall (gk)  
 Yellow Cards: McKain 25', Boogaard 26', Fyfe 90+1'  
 Red Cards: Nil

**Western Sydney Wanderers:** 1.Ante Covic (gk), 2.Shannon Cole, 3.Adam D'Apuzzo, 4.Nikolai Topor-Stanley (c), 8.Mateo Poljak, 9.Dino Kresinger, 10.Aaron Mooy, 17.Youssef Hersi (14.Kwabena Appiah-Kubi 74'), 18.Lacopo La Rocca, 19.Mark Bridge (7.Labinot Haliti 83'), 21.Shinji Ono (23.Jason Trifiro 70')  
 Substitutes not used: 20.Jerrad Tyson (gk)  
 Yellow Cards: Mooy 45', Kresinger 65'  
 Red Cards: Nil

# Reds undone by confident Wanderers

By Matt Mays

Michael Valkanis got a bad taste of defeat in his first game as interim coach for Adelaide United as new boys Western Sydney won in convincing fashion at Hindmarsh on Sunday.

With the Reds in poor form, Valkanis left Djite (their only striker on the whole team sheet) on the bench for the tie.

Despite Western Sydney's sudden surge up the ladder, it was Adelaide who started the more brightly, enjoying spells of possession.

But it was Hersi who almost fired the visitor's ahead early doors, smashing a first time shot just over the bar on the edge of the box after some great build up play.

Minutes later, youngster Aaron Mooy struck a wonderful free kick from all of 35 metres toward goal but a strong Galekovic did well to palm to safety from his left.

It deemed to be a warning of signs to come. Adelaide showed little going forward and you have to wonder if the Reds off-field antics will influence the rest of their strong season.

Western Sydney took the lead though three minutes before the break. Hersi struck home after a goal mouth scramble. There was sympathy for Galekovic though as he did magnificently well to keep out the previous shot.

It took the Reds 32 minutes to produce any kind of threat. Ramsay failed to take advantage of a neat ball from Evan Kostopoulos as his shot trailed wide of the mark.

Just when Adelaide were looking forward to going into the break to re adjust, WSW struck a hammer blow and doubled their lead. Mark Bridge finishing first time into the roof of the net after Hersi picked him out with a pin point pass from the bye line. Adelaide had a mountain higher than Lofly to climb now.

Valkanis' first team talk made little impact, as Western Sydney came racing out the blocks.

Youssef pretty much settled the tie



Match Stats		
7	Saves	5
7	Attempts on target	13
6	Attempts off target	11
52%	Possession	48%
4	Corners	5
3	Offsides	0
15	Fouls committed	20

Bootiful! Youseff Hersi scores, celebrates and takes a shine to provider Mark Bridge's boots. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

just six minutes into the second half, heading in Bridge's delightful cross. Adelaide were stunned, down three goals and without a manager – this has to be the lowest point of their season. On the contrary, Western Sydney are thriving and look dead certain to qualify for a playoff place at their very first attempt – a great feat in their debut year.

The Reds almost responded immediately. Dario Vidusic whipped in a corner which met the head of Jon McKain, only to be denied by an impressive stop from veteran Ante Covic.

It was the Reds second half substi-

tute Djite that gave the home side a glimmer of hope on 60 minutes, picking up the ball just outside the D, turning and firing nicely into the bottom right – almost a replica of the strike against the Mariners earlier in the season.

Their goal did very little; in fact, it was The Wanderers who put the game to bed after pouncing on a poor back pass from Boogaard. Hersi involved again from the right, whipping in a cross and left Poljak to tuck away his first ever goal in the A League.

The Reds eventually pulled another goal back with three minutes left though with a smart volley from Iain

Ramsay.

The final whistle was greeted with jeers from the Adelaide faithful but the very few that made the trip from Sydney were jumping with joy, taking all three points and a convincing performance back to Parramatta.

Valkanis said after the game the week has ended as badly as it started [following the resignation of John Kosmina].

"It's been an interesting week. Not just for me but the club as a whole. It's been a very negative week."

"The first half was not good at all, we couldn't start how we usually start with the players we had. Djite was

never going to be able to play a full game."

WSW coach Popovic hailed the team's unity.

"As a club we are aspiring to be the best, and slowly, we are taking steps towards that. We are a close nit bunch and there is a structure and a game plan which everyone has to buy into, and the players do that."

On today's performance it seems Western Sydney are heading in the right direction. Unfortunately for Adelaide though they seem to heading the other way.



Kwabena Appiah-Kubi (Wanderers) goes down after a hefty challenge by cas-sio (Adelaide Unted). Photo: ADAM BUTLER



Bruce Djite pulls one back for Adelaide United and now the Reds have only half a mountain to climb. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

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# PICS OF ROUND 19



Les Shorrock's  
Action Packed  
Picture Page



The South End at Hindmarsh Stadium post a farewell message to departed coach John Kosmina. Photo: ADAM BUTLER



The camera focusses on Adelaide United interim coach Mike Valkanis, as he focusses on the job at hand. Photo: ADAM BUTLER



Ball boys and girls get ready to take centre stage at the Melbourne Derby. PHOTO: ANITA MILAS



Wanderers & Japanese World Cup star Shinji Ono poses with a young fan after the match. Photo: ADAM BUTLER



Western Sydney Wanderers Bay 56 fans on tour in The City of Churches. PHOTO: ADAM BUTLER



Nothing short of proposing on the big screen, Brisbane Roar fans send an early Valentine message to their home-town heroes. Photo: KEITH EIGELAND



Newcastle's James Brown skews his free-kick as the ball goes off in search of a GPS signal. Photo: PETER McDONALD



No 1 ticket holder and MasterChef George Calombaris scores a Melbourne Victory guernsey from CEO Anthony Di Pietro. Photo: ANITA MILAS





### Mariners Line Up

1. Mathew Ryan  
2. Daniel McBreen  
3. Joshua Rose  
4. Pedj Bojic  
5. Zachary Anderson  
6. Patrick Zwaanswijk  
7. John Hutchinson (c)  
9. Bernie Ibini  
13. Brent Griffiths  
14. Michael McGlinchey  
15. Brad McDonald  
16. Trent Sainsbury  
17. Anthony Caceres  
18. Nick Montgomery  
19. Mitchell Duke  
20. Justin Pasfield  
21. Mile Sterjovski  
29. Nick Fitzgerald  
(Three to be omitted)

Ins: 4. Pedj Bojic (returns from injury), 15. Brad McDonald (promoted), 18. Nick Montgomery (returns from suspension), 29. Nick Fitzgerald (returns from Gentleman's Agreement)

Outs: 11. Oliver Bozanic (injury)

Unavailable: 11. Oliver Bozanic (Shoulder – 1-2 weeks)



### Adelaide Utd Line Up

1.Eugene Galekovic (gk) (c)  
2.Osama Malik  
4.Jon McKain  
5.Iain Fyfe  
6.Cassio  
8.Marcelo Carrusca  
10.Dario Vidosic  
12.Antony Golec  
14.Cameron Watson  
16.Daniel Bowles  
17.Iain Ramsay  
19.Jake Barker-Daish  
21.Jeronimo Neumann  
23.Evan Kostopoulos  
24.Awer Mabil  
30.John Hall (gk)  
(One to be omitted)

Ins: Osama Malik (promoted), Jeronimo Neumann (returns from suspension), Awer Mabil (promoted from NYL)

Outs: Nigel Boogaard (suspended – 1 match), Bruce Djite (groin – 2 weeks)

Unavailable: Fabio Ferreira (groin – 4-5 weeks)

## CC Mariners v Wellington Phoenix

By Adrian Deans

So, Brisbane finally lifted their game and it took the visit of the Mariners to inspire them. The Roar have been strangely vulnerable this season but few teams will relish a trip to Sun-corp after that performance.

It was an OK performance by the Mariners – missing Pedj Bojic and Nick Montgomery, their usual patterns going forward were a tad clunky, and Trent Sainsbury was wasted at right back. He had a decent-ish game but was caught out of position a few times. Both Brisbane goals came down the Mariners' right, but I won't be judging him on that performance. He is already the best Australian centre back in the league and destined for very big things.

Up front, the Mariners were their usual profligate selves – still making plenty of chances in the post-Rogic era but finishing few. Rose should have won it at the death, but that's the Mariners. They are a delight to watch the way they craft opportunities but can be frustrating when their performances don't amount to goals and points. With Adelaide slipping the Mariners could have been 10 points clear by now and preparing the trophy cabinet for another Premier's Plate – instead they'll be watching nervously over their shoulders as Victory and Western Sydney gather momentum.

Wellington are always tough for

Referee: Kris Griffiths-Jones



Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #CCMvNIX

#### The Odds

Mariners 1.50  
Draw 4.20  
Phoenix 7.50

## Wobbling Mariners Watching Over Their Shoulders?

ABC Radio Coverage – 92.5  
Central Coast, Grandstand  
Digital, Radio Sport NZ & online

the Mariners. Despite the respective positions on the table, there's something about that indomitable kiwi spirit that always troubles them. Wellington just scrambled a win against Glory (who were looking the goods in the first part of the season – what's happened there?) and will travel with some confidence against a team yet to beat them this campaign.

It seems to be pace that unlocks the Phoenix defence, so Ibini and (eventually) Duke will have a say in the outcome. Daniel McBreen also has been staggeringly quick for a 35 yo this season – don't know whether that's down to Andrew Clark or another sprint trainer

but the front runner for this year's Golden Boot is outpacing much younger defenders.

Another major influence on the outcome will be Michael McGlinchey. He's had a brilliant season and is morphing superbly into a number 10. His speed of thought and foot are exactly what is required in that role and the Mariners have hardly missed a beat after Rogic's departure.

With Ollie Bozanic out injured, I'm guessing Arnie will opt for Sterjovski in the right half spot. The other possibility is a start for Mitchell Duke who will certainly do some damage – but is he still better as an impact player with half

an hour to test the tiring legs of aging defenders? (I'm looking at you Ben Sigmund.)

As usual, the Mariners will make numerous chances, but Wellington will appreciate the cooler weather of a 7.00 start and will be hard to break down. Still, the Phoenix arose last week...but it's only once every 500 years, isn't it?

*Adrian Deans is the author of Mr Cleansheets – published by Vulgar Press, distributed by Dennis Jones and Associates and available in all good book stores. Ebook also available. www.mrcleansheets.com*

**Kiss of Death  
Mariners 2-0 Phoenix**

## Adelaide United v Melbourne Victory

By Matt Mays

**Friday Night. Hindmarsh Stadium. This will be the scene of one of the biggest and most influential games of this already dramatic A League season, with two rivals in different spells of form. But when it comes to derbies, form gets thrown out the window.**

A lot has happened since the two sides met back in December where the Reds produced one of their best performances of the season, crushing the Victory 4-2 in front of a big crowd. Since then, Adelaide have slumped to just 3 wins in 9 games, and now finds themselves 4th in the ladder, and without a manager.

The Victory though have started to show what they have had in their locker in recent seasons. Their impressive 6 wins since then, including a Melbourne derby day win last weekend, have seen them shoot up the ladder to 2nd, and keen to pip the Mariners to the top and claim their first Minor Championship since 2009.

So what of the consequences for this mouth watering tie? A win for Victory will see them level on points with the Mariners (unless they can win by a mammoth 14 goals which would see them overtake...sill talk). But more importantly it would see the Victorians extend the gap between them and the Reds to 7 points, with 7 games

Referee: Jarred Gillett



#### The Odds

AUFC 2.90  
Draw 3.50  
Victory 2.40

## Fri Feb 08 Hindmarsh Stadium 7:30pm

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #REDSvMV

## Reds Look To Bounce Back Against Victory

ABC Radio Coverage  
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left of the season to play. Defeat for Adelaide would be a heartbreaker. The Reds will be desperate to get another one over their rivals, and new interim coach Valkanis will want to bag his first win under his belt.

The Reds have yet more injury problems though. Bruce Djite pulled up against Western Sydney last Sunday and will miss the derby, with Jeronimo Neumann likely to replace him. Scans have shown that Djite has a grade one tear to his adductor and is likely to return for the Sydney game on Feb 16. Ferriera is still recovering from a groin strain.

The Victory have no injury news

to report, but Milligan will be absent as he returns from his trip to Malaga after the Socceroo's vs. Romania game.

The match this Friday will be the 100th game that Hindmarsh will have seen. The stadium opened its doors in 2006 where the Reds defeated Brisbane 4-2. Since then the stadium has witnessed 160 goals.

Meanwhile A League chief Damien de Bohun has asked fans to 'self-police' themselves on Friday in a bid to 'potential trouble-makers' at bay.

"We will also liaise with active supporter groups from both teams to ensure the match can be played

in a safe and enjoyable environment."

Last weekend in Melbourne, five flares were lit inside the stadium while four where lit outside. Victorian police fined four people over \$4500 each and each fan received a 5-year ban.

**KISS OF DEATH** – Adelaide United will be pumped up for this one, but the quality of Victory in recent weeks will all be a bit too much for the Reds to handle.

Follow me on twitter: matta-hoo87

**Kiss of Death  
AUFC 1-2 Victory**



### Phoenix Line Up

Mark Paston (GK)  
2. Manny Muscat  
3. Tony Lochhead  
4. Isaka Cernak  
5. Michael Boxall  
8. Paul Ifill  
10. Stein Huysegems  
11. Jeremy Brockie  
12. Tyler Boyd, 14  
Ian Hogg  
16. Louis Fenton  
17. Vince Lia  
20. Glen Moss (GK)  
21. Dani Sanchez  
22. Andrew Durante (C).

Ins: 3.Tony Lochhead (returns from suspension), 5. Michael Boxall (promoted).

Outs:18. Ben Sigmund (suspended), 7. Leo Bertos (injured)..

Unavailable: 18. Ben Sigmund (suspended), 7. Leo Bertos (groin injury, 1 week).



### Victory Line Up

1. Tando Velaphi (GK)  
2. Matthew Foschini  
3. Adama Traore  
6. Leigh Broxham  
8. Jonathan Bru  
9. Marcos Flores  
10. Archie Thompson  
11. Marco Rojas  
13. Diogo Ferreira  
14. Billy Celeski  
17. Jimmy Jeggo  
18. Francesco Stella  
22. Jesse Makarounas  
23. Adrian Leijer  
26. Andrew Nabbout  
31. Scott Galloway  
32. Connor Pain  
39. Nathan Coe (GK)  
(Three to be omitted)

Ins: 2. Matthew Foschini, 22. Jesse Makarounas, 26. Andrew Nabbout (all promoted), 13. Diogo Ferreira (returns from suspension), 17. Jimmy Jeggo

Outs: 24. Nick Ansell (injured), 5. Mark Milligan (international duty)

Unavailable: 7. Gui Finkler (knee) 24.Nick Ansell (groin)



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MELBOURNE HEART



### Heart Line Up

1.Clint Bolton (Gk)  
3. Cameron Edwards  
6. Patrick Gerhardt  
8. Matthew Thompson  
9. Dylan Macallister  
11. Richard Garcia  
13. Jonatan Germano  
14. Golgol Mebrahtu  
15. David Williams  
17. Jason Hoffman  
18. David Vrankovic  
19. Ben Garuccio  
20. Andrew Redmayne (GK)  
21. Jamie Coyne  
22. Nick Kalmar  
25. Jeremy Walker  
26. Ersin Kaya  
27. Stefan Mauk  
28. Paolo Retre  
36. Eli Babalj  
(Five to be omitted)  
Ins: 3. Cameron Edwards (promoted), 9. Dylan Macallister, 17. Jason Hoffman (returns from suspension), 19. Ben Garuccio, 21. Jamie Coyne (transfer), 26. Ersin Kaya, 27. Stefan Mauk.

Outs: 24. Sam Mitchinson (quad strain - four weeks), 10. Josip Tadic (broken toe – 4-6 weeks), Steven Gray (released)

Unavailable: 4. Simon Colosimo (calf – two weeks), 5.Fred Tadic (quad strain – two weeks), 23.Mate Dugandzic (broken foot – season)

## Melbourne Heart v Perth Glory

By Andrew Bishara

You know there are problems in the rank, when players come out to the media and start an open warfare of complaints against their own team.

Perth Glory's Michael Thwaite openly questioned his club's direction after they let, three promenade players; such as Bas van den Brink, Billy Mehmet and Jesse Makarounas leave the club during the transfer window.

"They (the departures) give opportunities to the young players and I think it's good," he said, "But in terms of our best 11, I think we could have used those players"

"I'm happy at the club, but I'm not happy with where we are. I'd like to see a little bit more direction" said Thwaite.

This attack on the club's actions illustrates two sides of the same coin. One; that there is disharmony in the squad – whether by the team's current status in the league or management itself. Two; that this attack looks to spark the team into action – to encourage the younger players to lift their game to replace the departed.

Either way, its not good news for the Glory, who are sitting dead last on the table. Their form has been heinous over the last seven rounds, were they've take only two points and haven't won since Christmas.

Despite being last on the ladder, Glory manager Ian Ferguson has

ABC Radio Coverage – 774 & ABC Local Radio Victoria, 720 & ABC Local Radio WA, Grandstand Digital Melbourne, Perth & online

Referee Alan Milliner

## Perth Looking For Glory in Melbourne's Heart

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remained adamant that his side can still make the finals

"If you win four or five of these games, you will reach the finals," he said. "Everybody has got to play each other and get points off each other, so there's still the belief we can do it."

To kick off their finals run, they have to travel to the AAMI Park to take on the Melbourne Heart. Last time, these two sides met; there was controversy involving the clash between Heart boss John Aloisi and Perth captain Jacob Burns over the physicality of the Glory.

The same fireworks might still be there, but Aloisi has other problems regarding his side. The Heart almost had palpitations this week when rumours surfaced that Brazilian captain Fred was going to announce his retirement.

The captain has denied the claims, instead focusing on helping the team.

"It's too difficult," Fred said. "I always shout with the physios if they don't let me play on the week-end. "I feel good, not this week, but next week I'll start to play with the team again."

"I think I still have a lot of years to play. I'd like to keep playing in

Australia. I hope (Heart) give me another contract and I can stay here," he said.

Fred will miss this week's clash with the Glory, but the positive news is that Richard Garcia won't be travelling with the Socceroos, so he'll be fully fit. As for Perth, they should welcome back Shane Smeltz, but Jacob Burns will miss out. With both teams battling to get into the finals, it will be hard slog, so expect a draw to balance things out.

**Kiss of Death**  
**Heart 1-1 Glory**



### Glory Line Up

1.Danny Vukovic (gk)  
2.Jack Clisby  
5.Steve Pantelidis  
6.Nick Ward  
7. Jacob Burns  
8.Dean Heffernan  
9.Shane Smeltz  
10.Liam Miller  
11.Adrian Zahra  
12.Ryo Nagai  
13.Travis Dodd  
14.Steven McGarry  
17.Chris Harold  
18.Matias CORDOBA  
19.Josh Risdon  
21.Scott Jamison  
23.Michael Thwaite  
30 Lewis Italiano (gk)  
(Two to be omitted)

Ins: 7. Jacob Burns ( returns from back injury)  
9.Shane Smeltz (returns from hip injury) 18.Matias CORDOBA (new signing)

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: Nil



### Wanderers Line Up

1. Ante Covic (GK)  
2. Shannon Cole  
3. Adam D'Apuzzo  
4. Nikolai Topor-Stanley  
5. Michael Beauchamp  
6. Jerome Polenz  
7. Labinot Haliti  
8. Mateo Poljak  
9. Dino Kresinger  
10. Aaron Mooy  
11. Tarek Elrich  
13. Joey Gibbs  
14. Kwabena Appiah-Kubi  
15. Reece Caira  
16. Rocky Visconte  
17. Youssef Hersi  
18. Iacopo La Rocca  
19. Mark Bridge  
20. Jerrad Tyson (GK)  
21. Shinji Ono  
23. Jason Trifiro (Six to be omitted)

Ins: 15. Reece Caira, 11. Tarek Elrich, 13. Joey Gibbs, 16. Rocky Visconte (all promoted). 6. Jerome Polenz (returns from suspension), 5. Michael Beauchamp (returns from injury)

Outs: nil

Unavailable: 12. Tahj Minniecon (foot season)

## WS Wanderers v Newcastle Jets

By Alex Milic

Two Ryan Griffiths penalties gave the Jets a point against Sydney FC last week but once the Jets make the drive to Campbelltown Stadium things will only get tougher.

Currently third on the table the Wanderers are in hot form and are only four points off top spot while the Jets are in fifth position a massive twelve points behind the Wanderers.

Western Sydney Wanderers manager Tony Popovic says, "We didn't get despondent when the results weren't coming our way and we won't get ahead of ourselves with the great run that we've got. Our focus is on Newcastle (next week) and to continue that run we need to be at our best against another good team."

"We are a close-knit unit, everyone works for each other, but there is a structure and game plan everyone has to buy into, and the players do that.

"We are a close-knit group and a club with high aspirations. We want to be the best and slowly we are taking steps forward.

"I don't see it as anything special, it's just the way the Wanderers work, and we as a club are very happy with how we play our football and how we conduct our-



Referee: Peter Green

## Wanderers Seek To Ground Jets

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selves.

"Moving forward there is a lot more room for improvement on and off the park.

"Bit by bit we want to achieve good things at this club."

30-year-old Dutch winger Youssef Hersi has been a revelation for the Wanderers in their debut season and will now be in the red and black strip for another year after extending his contract til the end of the 2013-2014 season campaign.

The Ethiopian-born Dutchman is hoping to build on his four goals and seven assists in what has been a remarkable year for

the club.

He scored twice and set up another as the Wanderers dominated Adelaide United at Hindmarsh Stadium last week.

Hersi revealed he'd thought of returning overseas after receiving offers from European clubs, but instead decided to stay on with the Wanderers.

He says, "It was difficult because I wanted to go somewhere else, maybe," he said on Wednesday. But I thought no, it's better to stay here, follow my heart."

Part of that decision hinged on whether Hersi would continue playing with a team he's become

comfortable with.

Hersi joins defenders Jerome Polenz, Michael Beauchamp, Adam D'Apuzzo, Shannon Cole, goalkeeper Ante Covic and midfielder Mateo Poljak who all resinged with the club last month.

The Wanderers are looking to make it five wins in the last five matches with top spot in mind for Popovic and co while the Jets are just hoping to leave Western Sydney with a point.

**Kiss of Death**  
**Wanderers 3-1 Jets**



### Jets Line Up

1. Ben Kennedy (gk)  
2. Scott Neville  
3. Zenon Caravella  
4. Josh Mitchell  
8. Ruben Zadkovich  
9. Emile Heskey  
11. Connor Chapman  
12. Josh Brillante  
13. Sam Gallaway  
14. Taylor Regan  
15. Craig Goodwin  
17. James Virgili  
18. Jacob Pepper  
19. Michael Bridges  
20. Mark Birighitti (gk)  
22. Adam Taggart  
23. Ryan Griffiths  
25. Mitch Cooper  
26. Andrew Hoole  
(Four to be omitted)

Ins: Sam Gallaway, (returns from suspension), Taylor Regan, Jacob Pepper, Adam Taggart, Mitch Cooper (all elevated)

Outs: James Brown (family reasons)

Unavailable: Ben Kantarovski (knee)

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## Sydney FC Line Up

1. Ivan Necevski (gk)
2. Sebastian Ryall
3. Fabio
5. Nathan Sherlock
6. Jason Culina
7. Brett Emerton
8. Adam Griffiths
9. Paul Reid
10. Alessandro Del Piero
12. Blake Powell
13. Tiago Calvano
15. Terry McFlynn
16. Joel Chianese
17. Terry Antonis
18. Trent McClenahan
20. Vedran Janjetovic (gk)
21. Yairo Yau
22. Ali Abbas
23. Rhyan Grant
26. Peter Triantis (Five to be omitted).

Ins: Brett Emerton (returns from injury), Jason Culina (returns from injury), Yairo Yau (returns from international duty), Fabio (returns from suspension), Tiago Calvano (returns from suspension).

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: Pascal Bosschaart (heel, season), Kruno Lovrek (knee, 6 weeks), Joel Griffiths (suspended, 2 weeks).

## Sydney FC v Brisbane Roar

Sun Feb 10 Allianz Stadium 5:00pm

By FFA

Sydney FC defender Sebastian Ryall believes Wednesday's friendly against Tahiti will provide the perfect build up for the Sky Blues as they head into this weekend's blockbuster game against Brisbane Roar at Allianz Stadium.

"We've got a long week this week, so it's a good opportunity for us to get some work into our legs," said the centre half.

"The match against Tahiti is an excellent chance to get some fitness in early in the week to be ready for the match on Sunday."

Ryall was happy with the performance Sydney put in the 2-2 draw against Newcastle Jets on Saturday, after losing six players through injury, suspension and international duties.

"I think collectively we did really well. We are disappointed we didn't win but I think there are really good signs in that performance because we played as a team.

"We got a point away from home and we are equal sixth so we're not doing too bad at the moment."

However the former Young Socceroo also knows the Roar will provide a tough test on Sunday evening.

"Brisbane are on the up as well," he said. "They've not done too bad but we're up for a big match this weekend.

"All the boys look like they are really hungry to get the wins because this is the business end of

Referee: Ben Williams



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the season. They'll be up for it and we'll be up for it as well."

Sydney FC face Brisbane Roar in another crucial fixture this Sunday afternoon as the race for the Finals continues. The two sides are locked on 21 points each and a win would catapult the Sky Blues into the driving seat for Finals qualification. Meanwhile, Sydney FC legend Steve Corica has hailed the Sky Blue stars of past and present as the club reaches its landmark 200th A-League game against Brisbane at Allianz Stadium this Sunday afternoon.

The former Australian International and now Assistant Coach at Syd-

ney, has been a permanent fixture as either a player or a coach for the club since the opening game.

And he is delighted at how far Sydney and the A-League have come.

"Two hundred games for the club is a good achievement and to be here from the start is very pleasing for me.

"The club has grown each year, the league has got better, the players are much fitter, the game has changed and got quicker with more mobile players," said the former Socceroo midfielder.

"When you start out in the first year, you are not sure how it is going to go but I'm very pleased

with the way the A-League has progressed and the way the club has progressed as well."

Corica is famed for scoring the winning goal in the inaugural A-League Grand Final in 2005 and has heralded some of the greats who have played for the Sky Blues.

"Yorkie (Dwight Yorke) was fantastic for the club and for the A-League.

"This year it has been another step up again with Del Piero, he is a special player and has won everything in the game. For him to be at our club it's wonderful.

**Kiss of Death  
AUFC 1-1 Wanderers**



## Roar Line Up

1. Michael Theo (GK)
3. Shane Stefanutto
4. Matt Jurman
5. Ivan Franjic
7. Besart Berisha
8. Massimo Muroccia
9. Stef Nijland
11. Ben Halloran
12. Julius Doe
13. Jade North
14. Steven Lustica
17. Mitch Nichols
18. Luke Brattan
19. Jack Hingert
20. Matt Acton (gk)
21. James Meyer
22. Thomas Broich
25. George Lambadaridis
26. Corey Brown. (Four to be omitted)

Ins: 15. James Donachie (promoted), 21. James Meyer (promoted), 25. George Lambadaridis

Outs: 4. Matt Jurman (suspended - 1 week)

Unavailable: Matt Smith (hip injury - 2 weeks), Henrique (groin injury - 2-3 weeks)

# Business end is fast approaching

## A-League Rewind



By Robert Di Fabio

Following an absorbing 19 weeks of A-League action, the run-home towards the finals series is beginning to take centre stage. While the top four may seem assured of play-off action, the battle to earn a finals berth for the remaining six clubs will seemingly reach the final weekend of the regular campaign.

Competition front-runners Central Coast Mariners have had their lead at the league's summit expurgated to three points - following a come from behind 2-2 stalemate against Brisbane Roar - with two-time champions Melbourne Victory chasing their tails. The navy blues, once again announced their title aspirations, claiming a hard-fought win in last week's heated Melbourne derby, in front of 41,000 fervent fans at Etihad Stadium.

While the Victory is in ominous form, expansion outfit Western Sydney Wanderers continue rise to the challenge under boss Tony



Pressure mounts with every round as the quest for the title heats up. PHOTO: ANITA MILAS

Popovic, triumphing over an Adelaide United outfit, in turmoil on and off the pitch. Despite the Reds' fourth spot on the table, it's difficult to see them overcoming their latest turn of events, following a calamitous period for the club.

John Kosmina departed the club last week, in bizarre circumstances, igniting fuel in the fire citing 'a lack of trust' with certain people within the organisation.

"There is no vision. Decision-making at management level is reactive and impulsive at best, and

there is no consistency in managerial procedure", Kosmina revealed. "There is far too much whispering in corridors and around corners. I feel sorry for Rob Gerrard, and I also feel for directors Richard Noble and Phil Lounder - people I trust. But I simply cannot, and will not, work in an environment which otherwise lacks trust."

Adelaide still has a flurry of talented players at their disposal - Dario Vidosic, Marcelo Carrusca, Fábio Ferreira to name a few - although it will need to make a swift transition under interim

coach Michael Valkanis. Having lost three fixtures on the trot, the Reds will need all the inspiration is can find to restrain a rampant Victory, who have won six of their last eight matches.

While Friday night's encounter between the South Australian and Victorian divide is tipped to be another close affair, it brings us to the tussle for the final two finals spots. From Newcastle Jets, in fifth position on 23 points, to Perth Glory, who are currently anchored at the foot of the table, there is miraculously only four points

## Hyundai Goal for Grassroots

Congratulations to New Lambton Football Club for being selected as the Hyundai Goals For Grassroots junior club for Round 19. By virtue of Newcastle Jets scoring 2 goals this round, the club received a \$3000 grant courtesy of Hyundai. To nominate your club visit [www.goalsforgassroots.com.au](http://www.goalsforgassroots.com.au)

separating the pair.

This is why, the A-League, in terms of sheer unpredictability and entertainment, is one of the more unique football competitions around the globe. The salary cap, in conjunction with limited squad sizes means there's a much more of an even playing field, in contrast to the majority of leagues abroad. History has shown that results can go either way on any given day - particularly outside the top four this season.

In reality, any one of those six clubs could realistically edge their way into the finals series, and quite possibly make a reasonable tilt for the championship prize.

The finals series this season is more like a three-week cup competition, where every team is practically on an even playing field. The reward for finishing in the top two is the first week off, although unlike previous campaigns, there is no double chance.

After a gruelling 27-game season, is it fair? Probably not. Unlike other football codes like the AFL, having a week off isn't so much a competitive advantage in the round ball code. Yes, the top-two outfits will have a week's rest, although it could arguably work in the opposite direction - quelling its good run of form and momentum leading into the play-offs.

The other issue, which has polarised opinion, is whether the A-League should have a top-six finals series? If we're attempting to promote mediocrity by allowing a team who finishes in the bottom half of the table, a genuine opportunity to be crowned champions of Australia, then clearly the formula is flawed.

If the sixth placed team was to win this year's title, it would put the competition's integrity in serious doubt. Undoubtedly, Football Federation Australia would be scrutinised, and likely be tempted to alter the finals back to a top four or five series.

On the contrary, one of the positives with a top-six system is, it practically gives each club something to play for during the campaign, even if their season sees it near the bottom reaches of the ladder.

Nonetheless, the concluding eight weeks of the regular season is sure to give fans much to look forward to. Going by form book, it looks to be a three-horse race between the Mariners, Victory and the Wanderers. However, don't be surprised if the unexpected materialises.

Follow Robert on Twitter @RobertDiFabio

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## 2012 2013



Adelaide United Football Club is a professional association football club based in Adelaide, South Australia, Australia. It participates in the A-League as the sole team from the state of South Australia. Adelaide is one of the most successful clubs in the A-League. The club's home ground is Hindmarsh Stadium. The club was founded in 2003 to fill the place vacated by Adelaide City in the former National Soccer League (NSL). Adelaide United were premiers in the inaugural 2005-06 A-League season, finishing 7 points clear of the rest of the competition, before finishing 3rd in the finals. The Reds were also Grand Finalists in the 2006-07 and 2008-09





COMMENT - Taking A Stand

By Alvaro Rodriguez

Unless you've been hiding out under a rock since last Saturday's Melbourne derby - the 9th edition of the A-League's maiden crosstown rivalry, between Victory and Heart - you'll have seen the content and scope of the match in the media; it wasn't about another scintillating contest between the navy and red halves of town that drew a bumper crowd of 41,000, nor about Archie Thompson's hallmark performance; the latest in a long line since Victory's 2005 birth that should by rights culminate in a statue of the great man being erected outside AAMI Park upon retirement.

No - to everyone's regret, it must be pointed out that over 150 seats at Etihad Stadium had been deliberately wrecked by full-time...some even uprooted and thrown onto the pitch. Some will point out the numerous flares lit by MVFC's North End - a much-disputed aspect of football fandom as old as the hills and meriting its own discussion rather than being lumped in here. There were only 10 ejections from the stadium according to reports - not too bad one might think, but that is the crux of the issues at hand:

Ten ejections - however few in comparison to other football/sporting incidents in the past, is "ideally" ten too many. Just as say for posterity, ten flares ripped and let off is still ten too many. And no matter how one may wish to skirt around it, 150-60, 70 seats at a professional sporting venue laying prostrate or vandalised IS THAT NUMBER TOO MANY!

We football fans who have lived and breathed the game in this country for years, even decades, need no reminding of the hardships our game has faced in the past, on and off the field of play...but could it be, perhaps as a most-unfortunate byproduct of the massive strides the game in Australia has made in this past

# Together We Are The Solution



decade since Frank Lowy's return to the fold and the subsequent Crawford Report which was the blueprint for the creation of the A-League, the move of Australia from Oceania to Asia and of course qualification for the past 2 World Cups, that we have begun(or already may have) to take Oz football's progress completely-or just-enough for granted to become blasé about the road that still lies ahead, the work that still needs doing and indeed, about the vigilance we must never, under any circumstance, shirk and refuse?

I readily acknowledge there are all types of football fans among us, and believe me when I say I don't "just" mean those who profess the Premier League to be better than La Liga or vice versa, but rather those who for whatever reason are either prone to or intent on exceeding the matchday experience from Europe or wherever. And again, by 'exceeding' I don't mean chanting louder or for longer than the rival supporters' group, or outdoing them with a bigger/louder tifo. I should think I needn't explain what I mean by 'exceeding' - for it is something that has tended to belea-

guer football's image worldwide but does not, in any shape or form, need to be emulated much less replicated here.

Of course, reports of such violent incidents and scuffles at football matches in Australia stretch back decades; at times they were indeed minor fracasas blown out of all proportion by a biased, fearful media but there were also legitimately-dangerous incidents such as which occurred at Pratten Park in 1985 between Sydneys Olympic and Hakoah. It certainly is not an outlandish suggestion to make that inasmuch as these incidents at State League/NSL matches hindered the image of the domestic game, some football devotees actually welcomed these incidents in the belief they would in time lead to the demise of the 'institutionalised' mono-ethnic composition of club football in Australia and in effect pave the way for the A-League, modelled as a broad-based club competition free of mono-ethnic community bias. Perhaps these people thought in their naivete that the A-League was all that was needed to rid the game of its stigmatised

connotations of being 'un-Australian', 'for ethnics only' and so on. Clearly the very fact that not every single Australian was automatically converted to football - although plenty indeed were - upon our qualification for Germany '06 indicates that to have been nothing more than wishful thinking.

Now whilst football in Australia musn't, and I would say doesn't have that draconian aim in mind, it doesn't mean that the irrevocable pre-ingrained prejudices of many Australians towards football are a free pass for rogue sectors of football fandom to engage in the kind of behaviour/actions that would make the characters in 'Green Street Hooligans' notice enough to say "You've gotta do better than than son!", let alone do them proud... Just because many people out there will never 'get', much less love the game even if Australia wins the World Cup, does NOT justify wannabe ultras/casuals to get stuck in and start the ruckus because, even if they went the other way and were the most mousy, placid of casual spectators, collective/institutionalised Australia

wouldn't give a damn either way... because the bottom line is this: they DO give enough of a damn to drag the sport's name down into the gutter, with no concern for the sensitivities of genuine fans repulsed as anyone by these incidents, every time they occur. Yes, we've seen it all before a million times, "SOCCER SHAME", "SOCCER HOOLIGANS etc." using the sport's Australian moniker as the story's label rather than deal in reasoned specifics, ie. "DERBY SHAME" or "FERAL VICTORY/HEART 'FANS'" which we can all agree would have been more relevant and less-sensationalist headlines to use in reporting Saturday's incident. But that is simply expecting too much of a journalistic community that is still largely-indifferent to the sport due to it not having been a significant part of their upbringing, among other reasons. We may not like, even despise and be inflamed by the reportage tactics/methods that they use, and they may well add fuel to the fire despite their good intentions, but are we too readily insulted by this to cast aside or even ignore the issues at hand? Certainly the fact a Melbourne newspaper columnist

has received vile and violent social-media messages this week from certain 'concerned' football 'fans' for her opinion on Saturday's events does NO-ONE any favours whatsoever!

It is all too easy to make sweeping assumptions thus I will not suggest there are hordes upon hordes of rogue Victory/Heart fans who have their clubs', the A-League's and Oz football's best interests low on their list of priorities so as to engage in behaviour like Saturday's or worse, but it is clear there "are" individuals at work, numerous enough to flagrantly disregard the line between passion and defamation of the game's image by violent actions, and it is up to Melbourne Victory and Heart, as well as for ALL A-League clubs to pursue and rectify. When these incidents occur, they reflect badly on ALL of us football fans. We hate it and hate the 'system' for it, true, but it is what it is. Wrong as it is, but all the same.

The point is this: we fans are football as much as the players, coaches, officials and administrators, so we cannot let a culture of buck-passing fester within so as to absolve ourselves of all blame. We fans must always be utmostly passionate, but also utmostly vigilant. It is true that passion by its nature stifles reason, but even in a passion as powerful as that generated by football we must never cast aside our inhibitions and completely give in to the primality of the moment. Our passion is unrivalled in world sport, which is precisely why it is far too precious and special to defile by way of incidents like last Saturday's, let alone something worse.

It is individuals or groups of individuals that are responsible for incidents which overstep the boundaries of passion and sully the game's image, but together WE the fans, irrespective of our club/nation loyalties and so on, CAN and MUST endeavour, always, to be the preventative solution - the best solution.

## Nut-Meg Dept.

**Boo's World**

**SUMMER SERIES**

By Mark Boric

The Melbourne Derby sure had a lot of people on the edge of their seats. It brought about the usual media circus that follows such anti-social incidents. In an effort to get to the bottom of the hooligan scene in Australian football, I have gotten in contact with Mirko Ozkulovic a self-confessed hooligan of international renown an interview will appear in this column next week.

Is it time for the FFA to introduce the Zero Tolerance Policy in regards to discipline as implemented by the FFV? It does not appear that FFA punishments are having

any effect, and the FFV trumpeted the success of their methods several times during the year on their website. The monetary fines imposed by the FFA need to be increased and after the weekend's disturbances at Ethad Stadium championship points should be deducted and games should be played behind closed doors until the clubs can control the antics of their associates.

The highlight of the Distance Derby between Wellington and Perth was Glory keeper Danny Vukovic running back after going forward to get into the box for a couple of late corners. It cannot be too long before we get a goal from halfway from one of these episodes.

Justice was finally served on Joel Griffiths, suspended for three games for abusing a match official in their game against Melbourne Victory. He may have gotten away with a sneaky punch to the nether regions a few years ago, but the FFA finally got their man this time. Also deserving of a suspension are those at the FFA unable to complete their Match Review Panel process to issue the suspension any earlier than very late



From one great man to another. Pele whispers to Ali his secret about those funny tablets and where he gets all that energy from.

on a Friday afternoon. Even the FFV is quicker than that. I must still be the honeymoon period for David Gallop as something like this would have seen Ben Buckley crucified in some quarters.

Move over the Hot 30 DJ's who's names I never bothered to learn at the height of their Royal Prank Call scandal. 3AW's Tom Elliott has stepped up to be the next Aussie broadcaster to be vilified by the UK media after bringing

the Hillsborough Disaster into a discussion on crowd behaviour in the aftermath of the Melbourne Derby.

Had to laugh at the heading of an article on the 442 website. It read Ryall: We're not rogues. That would be Seb Ryall, of the infamous court case. Yes, he'd have credibilty in judging rogues.

Some club physio must be missing their magic sponge this week, which was then used to bring back

www.goalweekly.com

goal! Weekly

**Herald Sun**

OSCAR HOPE'S WHITE KNIGHT  
**JACKI'S HERO**

TV STAR'S FLIGHT FRACAS  
**I'M NO BOOZER**

**EXCLUSIVE: Crisis talks on louts as top cop declares...**

**SOCCER FANS THE WORST**

Paul Small  
A soccer policeman has revealed why he thinks the worst of our sport's fans. He says he's seen it all, from the most violent to the most polite. He says he's seen it all, from the most violent to the most polite. He says he's seen it all, from the most violent to the most polite.

Much to the annoyance of the AFL and NRL, soccer comes out on top pnce again...

Muhammad Ali from death's door during the Superbowl, following reports emanating from his estranged brother Rahman. As Mark Twain said, "the reports of my death are greatly exaggerated". And for the wags, it was the New York Journal which prematurely published Twain's obituary, not the esteemed publication you are currently reading.

AGAINST ALL ODDS	
A-League Dance Off Champion 2012/13	
Melbourne Victory	3.20
Central Coast Mariners	3.20
West Sydney Wanderers	5.50
Adelaide United	9.50
Brisbane Roar	15.00
Sydney FC	15.00
Newcastle Jets	17.00
Melbourne Heart	23.00
Perth Glory	26.00
Wellington Phoenix	26.00

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By Damiian Davies

Happy New Year to all. After a winter break, we have two months of action to catch up on. European football has been dominated by the big leagues of England, Spain and Italy over the festive season while many of the Asian leagues are yet to resume. The transfer window has been open, and as a result, never so much player movement for our Aussies Abroad. The Socceroos have had a break heading into the Romania clash later in February.

**Transfers:-** So many new faces making the move overseas. Hard to pick the trends, but Thailand and China seem to be popular destinations. A sprinkling of loan deals in England, and a few players with Socceroos experience returning to Australia. I would expect to see a lot of action on the field over the coming months and players have gone looking for first team football. Still a few guys recently released that are still looking for clubs, but over 190 Aussies now playing overseas.

**Additions/changes to player database:**

**Andrew Barisic** (22 Mar 1986) - transferred to East Bengal, India  
**Aziz Behich** (16 Dec 1990) - transferred to Bursaspor, Turkey  
**Kerem Bulut** (2 March 1992) - transferred to Akhisar Belediye GS, Turkey  
**Matthew Byrne** (5 Jun 1992) - transferred to FK Teleoptik Zemun, Serbia  
**Shane Cansdell-Sheriff** (10 Nov 1982) - loan to Rochdale AFC, England  
**Michael Cvetkovski** (21 Nov 1987) - transferred to Yangon United, Myanmar  
**Dino Djulbic** (16 Feb 1983) - transferred to Al Wahda, UAE  
**Matthew Fletcher** (1 Jun 1992) - loan to Cambridge United FC, England

**Petar Franjic** (7 Apr 1992) - transferred to Bangkok Glass, Thailand  
**Apostolis Giannou** (25 Jan 1990) - loan to Plantanias, Greece  
**Alex Grant** (23 Jan 1994) - loan to Havant & Waterlooville, England  
**Adam Harris** (20 May 1992) - transferred to Hayes & Yeading FC, England  
**Kym Harris** (20 May 1992) - transferred to Hayes & Yeading FC, England

**Patrick Kisorbo** (24 Mar 1981) - loan to Ipswich Town, England  
**Billy Konstantinidis** (21 Apr 1986) - transferred to Ethnikos Gazoros, Greece  
**Aleksander Jovanovic** (4 Aug 1989) - transferred to Suwon FC, Korea Republic  
**Steven Lustica** (12 Apr 1991) - loan to Brisbane Roar  
**Kevin Ly** (12 May 1996) - transferred to Burnley FC, England  
**Sasa Macura** (28 Nov 1991) - loan to Szigetszentmiklosi TK, Hungary  
**Michael Marrone** (27 Jan 1987) - transferred to Shanghai Shenxin, China

**Ryan McGowan** (15 aug 1989) - transferred to shandong Luneng Taishan, China  
**Matthew McKay** (11 Jan 1983) - transferred to Changchun Yatai, China  
**Nathen Megic** (30 Jan 1993) - transferred to A.S. Union Quinto,



# Aussies

Rogic makes his way from the Mariners to Celtic. Pic: KAREN DOUGLAS

**Italy**  
**Kyle Nix** (21 Jan 1986) - transferred to Suphanburi FC, Thailand  
**Erik Paartalu** (3 May 1986) - transferred to Tianjin Teda, China  
**Adam Parkhouse** (15 Dec 1992) - transferred to Stalybridge Celtic, England  
**Jovo Pavlovic** (16 Aug 1989) - transferred to Mitra Kukar, Indonesia  
**Tomas Rogic** (16 Dec 1992) - transferred to Celtic FC, Scotland  
**Jonas Salley** (16 Mar 1982) - transferred to Guizhou Renhe, China  
**Anthony Skorich** (19 Mar 1990) - transferred to Mitra Kukar, Thailand  
**Goran Subara** (4 Apr 1987) - transferred to Bangkok Glass, Thailand  
**Milan Susak** (29 Jan 1984) - transferred to Sepahan, Iran  
**Christos Tomaras** (14 Jan 1989) - transferred to Paniliakos, Greece  
**Lenox Tweneboa** (18 Jun 1989) - transferred to Yadanarbon FC, Myanmar

**Removed from player database:**

**Hussein Akil** (Woodlands Wellington) - returned to Australia, uncontracted  
**Eli Babalj** (Red Star Belgrade) - transferred to Melbourne Heart  
**Kearyn Baccus** (AC Siena) - returned to Australia, uncontracted  
**Adrian Caceres** (Chiang Rai United) - whereabouts unknown  
**Joel Griffiths** (Shanghai Shenhua) - transferred to Sydney FC  
**Daniel Gullo** (FC Bayern Alzenau) - returned to Australia, uncontracted  
**Nick Modaffari** (Parma) - returned to Australia, uncontracted  
**Jade North** (Consadole Sapporo) - transferred to Brisbane Roar  
**Bruno Novo** (Benefica de Macao) - whereabouts unknown  
**Mark Pullman** (Bala Town) - transferred to non-league, UK  
**Liam Reddy** (Esteghal Tehran) - transferred to NSWPL  
**Francesco Stella** (Rangers FC) - transferred to Melbourne Victory  
**Dean Zammit** (FC Bayern Alzenau) - returned to Australia, uncontracted

**Club Level:-**

**England (Premiership)** - A mixed few months for our Aussies in arguably the biggest league of them all. Our contingent at Aston Villa have been struggling a little with Brett Holman coming off the bench more than he would like, and Chris Herd back in the

treatment room. Forty year old Mark Schwarzer continues to hold his place as starting keeper at Fulham. Not as many clean sheets these days, but certainly remains a top level player. Our other keepers had differing tales. Adam Federici (Reading) has returned to the starting line up and has been instrumental in the run his team have had out of the relegation places. Brad Jones has been called on a few times over the past few weeks, great to see him back in the mix.

**England (Championship)** - Earlier in the season our Aussies were holding automatic promotion places but they have slipped off the pace over the festive season. Mile Jedinak (Crystal Palace) continues his break out season with rumours of interest from the Premiership. Scott McDonald has pushed on to double figure goals this campaign and would be looking for a big second half of the season. Very pleasing to see Rhys Williams joining him in the starting eleven at Middlesborough after a long injury absence. Neil Kilkenny will be looking to keep his starting position in a struggling Bristol City outfit. Young keeper Seb Usai (Blackburn) is now on the pine at Blackburn and will hope to get an opportunity over the coming months. With well over 2000 minutes played this season, Shane Lowry is another having a career best season in defence for Millwall. Patrick Kisnorbo has gone on loan to Ipswich Town and is need of match practice.

**England (League One)** - Oldham are a frustrating club. Great one week, average the next - they managed to knock Liverpool out of the cup recently. With young keeper, Dean Bouzanis (23 starts) still keeping fellow Aussie Alex Cisak on the bench. Also seems as though James Wesolowski is going to spend more time on the pitch than in the treatment rooms this season, also having made 23 starts. Twenty year old Bailey Wright has made a similar number of starts for Preston North End. Loanee Bradden Inman has been a revelation at Crewe, with his four goals in two months earning him a loan extension.

**England (League Two)** - a special mention to James Meredith and Curtis Good (both Bradford City) who have won through to the



# Abroad

Eli Babalj returns to heart after a stint in Serbia. Pic: DANIEL FLIS

League Cup final at Wembly in late February.

**Germany (Bundesliga)** - A month off over Christmas, but great to see a rare start for Mitch Langerak at Dortmund recently. Probably not as impressive as the brace scored by Robbie Kruse to earn Fortuna Dusseldorf some much needed points.

**Italy (Serie A)** - very quite for James Troisi at Atalanta of late with appearances off the bench rare.

**Italy (Serie B)**- not a dissimilar story for Carl Valeri at Sassuolo. I believe he is fit, so his absence is concerning. Young Liam Graham made the subs bench for Ascoli. Yes he has played youth football for NZ, but still eligible for Australia.

**Netherlands (Eredivisie)** - a good run of minutes for our Aussies at Utrecht until injury stuck down both Sarota and Oar. Jason Davidson (Heracles) has returned to the first team squad but is in and out of the starting eleven still.

**Turkey ( Super Lig)** - striker Kerem Bulut has now debuted for Akhisar Belediye GS, while Ersan Gulum continues in defence for Besiktas.

**Scotland (Premier League)** - Dylan McGowan has had an injury interrupted few months but would hope to cement his place by the end of the season. Alex Baird has sat on the bench for all 24 Dundee fixtures this season, a fantastic learning experience for the nineteen year old gloveman.

**Scotland (First Division)** - the move up north seems to be paying dividends for Marc warren, having now played over 1500 minutes for Airdrie United this season.

**Portugal (Primeira)** - Caleb Patterson-Sewell (Vitoria Setubal) has made just three starts since his transfer so will be looking to build on that number in the run home as his club fights off relegation.

**Cyprus (1. Division)** - young midfielder Robert Stambolziev has now managed 14 appearances for Olympiakos Nicosia, justifying the move to Cyprus for senior football.

**Malta (Premier League)** - Jacob Borg continues his good form for Balzan Youths. So much so that he

has raised talk of being called up to the Maltese national team this month.

**Qatar (Stars League)** - the three Aussies of Mark Bresciano (Al Gharafa), Matt Spiranovic (Al Arabi) and Sasa Ognenovski (Umm Salal) all continue to start for their respective teams barring the odd minor injury.

**U.A.E. (UFL)** - a little bit quieter in terms of scoring for Richard Porta (Dubai Club) over the past two months. Alex Brosque (Al Ain) is up to 8 goals in 10 starts. Dino Djulbic has made a smooth transition to Al Wahda.

**India (I-League)** - Tolgey Ozbey has scored in his past two starts for Mohun Bagan, while Andrew Barisic has debuted for Ozbey's former club East Bengal.

**Indonesia (Super League)** - with this competition just commencing, Dane Milovanovic (Pelita Bandung Raya) has started the season strongly. While Mitra Kukar has Aussies Jovo Pavlovic and Tonci Skorich on their books.

**New Zeland (Premiership)** - South Australian Scott Gannon has started the new season strongly for Otago United.

**Iran (Persian Gulf Cup)** - I believe Milan Susak is now the first Aussie to play a minute in Iran after his debut for Sepahan.

**Myanmar (National League)** - the recent starting debut for striker Lenox Tweneboa also marks the first Aussie to play in that country. We have Aussies playing in around 38 different countries at the moment!!

**Injuries:-** The off season in Asia will surely benefit players like Nathan Burns, Luke Devere and Matt Simon as they look to complete a pre-season and get back on the park. A few niggling injuries to a few regular starters, Chris Herd is close to resuming after a month out with a foot injury and Adam Sarota has suffered a long term knee injury.

**Club Competitions:- Europe (UEFA Champions League)** The clubs of just three Aussies remain, Jackson Irvine, Tom Rogic(Celtic) and Mitch Langerak (Borussia

Dortmund).  
**(UEFA Europa League)** Brad Jones remained on the bench as Liverpool progressed to the next round.  
**Asia (AFC Cup)** - No Aussies remain. (Asian Champions League) - No Aussies remain.  
**North America (CONCACAF Champions League)** - Andy Rose (Seattle Sounders) will have to wait until March for his quarterfinal clash.

**Reserves (U21's) and Youth:-** NextGen - no Aussies featured over the past two months as we enter the knockout phase.  
**U21's** - the trend of good form at this level translating to loan deals continues with extensions or new deals for Curtis Good, Bradden Inman and Matthew Fletcher. A good dozen Aussies are currently getting a good run of minutes in England, namely Richardson (Burnley) Adams (Derby), Antelmi (Leeds), Williams (Fulham), Edwards (Reading), Skapetis, Lennox (QPR) and Luongo, Gallifuoco at Spurs.  
**Youth** - same can be said for the U18's with Elder, Paratore (Leicester City), Tarasenko (Portsmouth), Makrillos (Stoke City), Beadling (Sunderland) and Taylor Tombides (West Ham)all starting these days.

**International level :-** The Socceroos played the EAFF East Asian Cup in December with predominately an Asia Pacific based squad. Some would label this as auditions for the full squad, but the desired result was achieved with qualification for the 2013 Asian Cup. Many players making there debuts for the Socceroos, and notably the old faces like Emerton and Garcia returned to the national set-up. Gives Holger a few more headaches when selecting our full squad for the next WC qualifiers in March.

**Socceroo (capped) of the month** - generally speaking if your club is near the foot of the table at Christmas, you can expect a tough second half of the season. The form displayed by Adam Feerici has seen them win 6 from 8 post Christmas. Certainly not out of trouble, but no longer odds on to drop to the Championship. With Schwarzer aging and important WC qualifiers on the horizon, will be an interesting selection dilemma for Holger.

November - McDonald, October - Oar, September - Kruse  
**Under (uncapped) the radar** - with Dean Bouzanis having just turned 21, the goalkeeper stocks are high for Australia. Once declared to be one of the best 16 year old keepers in the world, Bouzanis continues to string together an impressive run of games. Yes, his team is not always winning, but without his numerous saves the situation could be more dire.  
 November - Lowry, October - Porta, September - Lowry  
 Young player (U21) of the month - back to back nominations for Bailey Wright. Transfer listed in the off season to now be talked about as a future captain, strange game sometimes. One of his main challengers for a place in the starting line up seemed to be Aussie centre-back Cansdell-Sheriff. He has gone out on loan so that speaks to Wright's recent form.  
 November - Wright, October - Bouzanis, September - Antelmi



# Couch Potato



\* ALL TIMES ARE AEDT

SBS

SBS ONE  
Sunday February 10th  
10:30 am FIFA World Cup 2014 Magazine  
11:00 am FIFA Futbol Mundial

Monday February 11th  
4:30 pm FIFA Futbol Mundial  
11:00 pm The World Game

SBS TWO

Monday February 11th  
9:30 pm The World Game

SETANTA SPORTS

FRIDAY 8TH FEBRUARY  
Bundesliga Round 21 Preview Show  
7:00pm 1st Airing

SATURDAY 9TH FEBRUARY  
npower Championship Round 30  
Watford v Cry Palace 6:40am **LIVE**  
Primera Division Round 1 Argentinos  
Juniors v Velez 11:10am **LIVE**  
SPL Round 26 Inverness v Celtic  
10:55pm **LIVE**

SUNDAY 10TH FEBRUARY  
npower Championship Round 30 Bolton  
v Burnley 1:55am **LIVE**  
Bundesliga Round 21 Bayern v Schalke  
4:25am **LIVE**  
Eredivisie Round 22 Vitesse v PSV  
6:40am **LIVE**  
Primera Division Round 1 Boca Juniors  
v Quilmes 9:10am **LIVE**  
Bundesliga Round 21 Monchengladbach  
v Leverkusen 11:15am 1st Airing  
npower Championship Round 30  
Brighton v Hull 1:05pm 1st Airing  
Bundesliga Round 21 Dortmund v  
Hamburg 2:55pm 1st Airing

MONDAY 11TH FEBRUARY  
Bundesliga Round 21 Augsburg v Mainz  
1:25am **LIVE**  
Bundesliga Round 21 Freiburg v Fortuna  
3:25am **LIVE**  
Eredivisie Round 22 Ajax v Roda  
11:40am 1st Airing  
Eredivisie Round 22 PEC v Twente  
1:30pm 1st Airing  
Bundesliga Round 21 Highlights Show  
7:00pm 1st Airing

TUESDAY 12TH FEBRUARY  
SPL Round 26 Hibernian v St Johnstone  
6:40am **LIVE**  
npower Championship Round 30  
Highlights Show 7:00pm 1st Airing  
SPL Round 26 Highlights Show 7:30pm  
1st Airing  
Eredivisie Round 22 Highlights Show  
8:00pm 1st Airing

THURSDAY 14TH FEBRUARY  
Copa Libertadores Second Stage Match-  
day 1 Boca Juniors v Toluca 10:55am  
**LIVE**

FRIDAY 15TH FEBRUARY  
UEFA Europa League Round of 32 1st  
Leg Zenit v Liverpool 3:55am **LIVE**  
UEFA Europa League Round of 32 1st  
Leg Tottenham v Lyon 7:00am **LIVE**  
UEFA Europa League Round of 32 1st  
Leg Sparta Prague v Chelsea 9:05am  
1st Airing  
UEFA Europa League Round of 32 1st  
Leg Newcastle v Metalist 10:55am 1st  
Airing  
Bundesliga Round 22 Preview Show  
12:45pm 1st Airing  
UEFA Europa League Round of 32 1st  
Leg Highlights Show 7:00pm 1st Airing



Tuesday 12th February  
09:30 am Liverpool TV

Friday 15th February  
07:30 am Football: Liverpool TV



ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE **LIVE**  
Times listed are 7 minutes prior to  
kick-offs.

English Premier League

WEEK 26  
Sat Feb 9 Tottenham v Newcastle  
11.38 pm Fox 1  
Sun Feb 10 Chelsea v Wigan  
1.53 am Fox 1  
Sun Feb 10 Norwich v Fulham  
1.53 am Viewers Choice  
Sun Feb 10 Stoke v Reading  
1.53 am Viewers Choice  
Sun Feb 10 Sunderland v Arsenal  
1.53 am Viewers Choice  
Sun Feb 10 Swansea v QPR  
1.53 am Viewers Choice  
Sun Feb 10 Southampton v Man City  
4.23 am Fox 1  
Mon Feb 11 Aston Villa v West Ham  
12.23 am Fox 1  
Mon Feb 11 Man United v Everton  
2.53 am Fox 1  
Tue Feb 12 Liverpool v West Brom  
6.53 am Fox 1

Liverpool v Swansea  
Postponed due to Swansea City's  
involvement in the Capital One Cup  
Final.

FA Cup Round 5 matches scheduled  
February 16-19.

Hyundai A-League  
All games **LIVE**

Thu Feb 7 Central Coast v Wellington  
7.00 pm Fox 2  
Fri Feb 8 Adelaide v Melbourne  
7.30 pm Fox 1  
Sat Feb 9 Melbourne Heart v Perth  
5.30 pm Fox 1  
Sat Feb 9 West Sydney v Newcastle  
7.45 pm Fox 1  
Sun Feb 10 Sydney v Brisbane  
5.00 pm Fox 1

Asian Champions League  
Playoff Match  
Wed Feb 13 Buriram United v Brisbane  
9.55 pm Fox 3

FOX SPORTS FC  
Every Tuesday 8.30 pm

# Round 20: ASK THE EXPERTS

THE VERDICT

Mariners (8) Phoenix (0) Draw (0) - Adelaide (1) Victory FC (7) Draw (0) - Heart (7) Glory (0) Draw (1) - Wanderers (8) Jets (0) Draw (0) - SFC (3) Roar (2) Draw (3)

SANTO CILAURO 43

Mariners  
Victory  
Heart  
Wanderers  
Sydney

Last week: 2

CRAIG MACKENZIE 43

Mariners  
Victory  
Heart  
Wanderers  
Sydney

Last week: 3

EDDIE KRNEVIC 39

Mariners  
Victory  
Heart  
Wanderers  
Draw

Last week: 4

PETER KATHOLOS 36

Mariners  
Adelaide  
Heart  
Wanderers  
Sydney

Last week: 1

ROGER SLEEMAN 48

Mariners  
Victory  
Heart  
Wanderers  
Brisbane

Last week: 2

ANDY HARPER 38

Mariners  
Victory  
Heart  
Wanderers  
Brisbane

Last week: 2

JOHN DOYLE 39

Mariners  
Victory  
Heart  
Wanderers  
Draw

Last week: 2

KISS OF DEATH 46

Mariners  
Victory  
Draw  
Wanderers  
Draw

Last week: 3

# Fixing scandal to change governance

By James M.Dorsey

A Singaporean national at the core of a global soccer match-fixing scandal provided key information that led to this week's disclosure by Europol that it suspects that as many as 680 games on four continents were fixed by Asian crime syndicates and their European helpers.

Convicted in Finland in 2011 on match fixing charges and subsequently extradited to Hungary, one of several European countries where he is wanted, Wilson Raj Perumal, a 47-year old engineer of Tamil origin, agreed to map out the syndicates' global operations in exchange for protective custody. "I hold the key to the Pandora's box. And I will not hesitate to unlock it," he said in one of a series of letters to Singapore's The New Paper.

Mr. Perumal's revelations and Europol's disclosure add to a series of corruption scandals that have rocked world soccer in the last two years. The seriousness of the investigation into match-fixing is likely to contrast starkly with efforts by world soccer body FIFA and many of its constituent regional associations to root out corruption.

Those efforts have largely only skimmed the surface even though they led to the inevitable resignation or banning from involvement in soccer of several executive committee members, including Asian Football Confederation (AFC) president Mohammed Bin Hammam. They have yet to address an environment of backroom, back-slapping, non-transparent soccer politics that have spurred widespread perceptions of corruption.

Fan outrage over the match fixing scandal potentially could change that. FIFA has so far been under little, if any, fan pressure to introduce radical reforms. As a result, its major corporate sponsors politely expressed concern when the scandals first erupted in late 2010 and 2011 but did little to encourage FIFA to truly mend its ways. Europol's disclosure of the extent of match fixing that may have even effected English championship games and European qualifiers could spark grassroots protests. Indeed, in seeking protective custody from his former associates whom he had short changed to pay off gambling debts reportedly to the tune of \$3



Wilson Raj Perumal in a Finnish court. PHOTO: YLE/ Jan Pelikonen)

million, Mr. Perumal, believed to have been one of the smoothest operators of the match fixing scheme, may have provided the monkey wrench needed to fundamentally change governance of the beautiful game.

His operations did not simply involve the buying of corrupt players and referees but in increasingly also of whole soccer associations, particularly cash-starved ones in Africa eager to play all-expenses paid friendlies. In the process, Mr. Perumal and his associates generated hundreds of millions of dollars in fraudulent gambling winnings for Asian and European syndicates in a global business that grew exponentially with television and the Internet.

FIFA investigators say Mr. Perumal perfected his approach of associations in addition to individuals in the late 1990s in Africa in countries like Ghana and Zimbabwe. He projected himself as a promoter acting on behalf of front companies that arranged friendly matches. "Most football associations are broke. When you go up to them with an opponent who is prepared to ... play a friendly, they welcome you with open arms. They don't realize what is hidden beneath," he said in one of his letters to The New Paper.

Mr. Perumal's downfall was a friendly between Bahrain and Togo in 2011 when it

became apparent that Togo had fielded a fake team that surprisingly defeated the Gulf squad 3:0. The key to unravelling what had happened in Bahrain was the revelation by a Bahraini soccer official that the match had been arranged by a Singapore-based, FIFA-approved agent. In effect however, the beginning of Mr. Perumal's end preceded the match in Bahrain. A petty criminal with a long charge list involving housebreaking, theft, forgery, cheating and match-fixing, he fled Singapore for a Tamil community near London's Wembley Station to evade serving five years in prison for running over a policeman in 2009.

Authorities finally caught up with him when he was stopped at an airport in Finland in 2011 as he was attempting to leave the country on a false passport. They were acting on a tip of one of his associates. With Mr. Perumal spilling the beans to save his own neck and take revenge on those he feels betrayed him, the syndicates appear to have made a fatal mistake in fingering him in the belief that he would not share his knowledge in a bid to save his life.

The decision to out Mr. Perumal was prompted by complaints to the syndicate by a Finnish local club, Rovaniemi, that it had been paid less than the agreed \$500,000 for its acquisition by associates of the crime group. Mr. Perumal had

pocketed up to \$300,000 of the sales price to pay off some of his gambling debts. By that time, syndicate bosses already suspected that Mr. Perumal's loyalties may have been divided.

They assumed that he may have tipped off FIFA about the fixing of two matches in the Turkish Mediterranean Sea resort of Antalya – Latvia against Bolivia and Estonia against Bulgaria. More likely is that lack of caution by one of Mr. Perumal's associates, Anthony Santia Raj, prompted the Latvian soccer federation to voice concern with FIFA.

In response then FIFA security chief Chris Eaton turned to London-based gambling watchdog Sportradar for help. Sportradar's analysis of the betting pattern for both matches left little doubt that they had been fixed.

Mr. Perumal's explanation of his demise is a very different one. He blames those he recruited and trained in Singapore, a perfect multi-cultural recruitment ground for Chinese syndicates looking for English speaking operatives who can easily blend in various parts of the world, for seeking to take over his position in what he describes as a cut-throat business. "I would have admired my enemy if he had brought the sword to my heart instead of my back," he said in one of his letters to The New Press.

**Join The Revolution**  
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# Has Ange made another stellar signing?



**STADIO Alberto Benedetti is set amid a residential area of Buggiano in northern Tuscany and it's the last place that Francesco Stella played regular senior football.**

The pretty little stadium has a capacity of 2500 and its idyllic surrounds are a far cry from the Etihad Stadium cauldron in which Stella and his Victory teammates played in last Saturday's Melbourne derby.

If the Melbourne-born attacking midfielder was waiting for confirmation that his recent switch from Scottish giant Rangers was a good move then 41,000 fans gave him a raucous response.

He may only have come on late in the contest and he may only have made two substitute appearances for Victory's first team but he can barely hide his delight at signing a two-and-a-half-year deal. That's because Rangers' Murray Park training complex in Glasgow had become a cold and frosty place for Stella in more ways than one.

Now the 21-year-old faces up to the challenge of adapting to new training methods and the system of play enforced by Victory supremo Ange Postecoglou and he is adamant that he's never been happier in his short but colourful professional career.

"All I can say is that I'm really, really happy with this move and the length of the contract probably shows the coach's belief in me but that's something you'd have to ask him I guess," said Stella.

Stella's junior career here included a spell at Essendon Royals but his career really took off when he was 16 and trialled successfully with Chievo where he played for one season.

That year in Verona was a watershed one for the teenager. "Moving overseas was a big shock to me I can tell you. I grew up very, very quickly."

He returned to complete his final year of secondary school and joined former national league giant South Melbourne, making his senior debut against Altona Magic in a round 23 clash at Bob Jane Stadium in 2008.

He played 17 senior games with Souths in 2009 before heading back to Italy and trialling with Siena eventually inking a three-year deal there.

After being sidelined for a few months due to a then flawed FFA policy his international clearance eventually came through. He had

been training with Siena's reserves and he scored in his first reserves game against Torino.

Siena was in Serie B and its senior coach was former Italian international Antonio Conte.

"He was very well respected in the football world and he was very serious and very dedicated to what he was doing," said Stella of the man now in charge at Juventus.

"He was really, really strict as well in terms of both discipline and diet and what I like most about him as a coach is all he looks at is how you perform."

"His training sessions were very intense and he did a lot of tactical work."

"Although I had a three-year contract I wasn't getting a chance in the first team probably because Siena was always fighting to avoid relegation and they were playing experienced players instead of young players like myself."

Stella went out on loan to Borgo a Buggiano, who played in the old Serie C before returning to Siena and deciding that a move was in his best interests.

His agent at the time was Claudio Vigorelli who had some notable clients on his books, Samuel Eto'o among them.

**"When I went to Scotland we did absolutely zero tactics. The focus was on the physical side and although training sessions were based on possession there was no real shape to what we did. It was a much quicker pace but it was nowhere near as organised and disciplined as the Italian game."**

Vigorelli came to an agreement with Siena to tear up Stella's contract and lined up a trial with Rangers, by now booted out of the SPL in controversial circumstances and playing in Third Division, the fourth tier of Scottish football.

"I thought going to Rangers would be really good for me. I knew what had happened but going to a new team with such a big history and me being young I could hopefully establish myself there and then climb back up the leagues with Rangers."



Francesco Stella (right) with fellow Melbourne Victory new signings Jesse Makarounas and Scott Galloway, at a recent meet the press session at Gosch's Paddock. Photo: JIM WEBSTER / BREATHING FOOTBALL

"I impressed them as soon as I got there and they offered me a contract before the end of the transfer window. It was just a one-year deal but it was good for me because there were a lot of players they were looking at."

"I was really happy about that and immediately after signing we played a friendly against Falkirk and I scored. I think we won 3-1."

But that was to be one of the high points of what turned out to be a nightmare move for the youngster.

"I was doing well in training and I was called up to the bench a few times but never got onto the pitch. I was scoring in the reserves games and it was really disappointing."

"I was told I was doing well and that my chance would come. They told me to be patient so I worked really hard but in December I decided to knock on the manager's door and I told him I'd prefer to leave because I thought I deserved better."

"Obviously there was something other than football reasons why I wasn't playing and the only thing I can think of that makes sense is that because they were in Third Division they wanted to build by using young Scottish players."

"I noticed a lot of times when I thought I deserved to play that a lot of young Scottish players who couldn't even train with us would be put in front of me and get their

chance before me."

"Look it was very disappointing but that's behind me now. The move to Victory came through my Australian agent Peter Kokotis and it happened really, really quickly in fact I signed the contract while I was still in Glasgow."

Stella has firm views on the differences between Italian and Scottish football and he's not scared to voice them, views that will likely make most Scots cringe. They would surely rankle Ibrox legend and current manager Ally McCoist.

"The Italian training sessions are very long and they focus a lot, too much in my opinion, on team tactics and analysing the opposition. I found the way of playing there was a lot more congested because all the teams are very tactically prepared."

"When I went to Scotland we did absolutely zero tactics. The focus was on the physical side and although training sessions were based on possession there was no real shape to what we did. It was a much quicker pace but it was nowhere near as organised and disciplined as the Italian game."

At Victory, Stella sees the Postecoglou methodology as having aspects of both the Italian and Scottish ways and he is hell-bent on fitting into the team structure.

"The way Ange has been training us the last few weeks is my favourite way of training. We work

on shape but we also work on being physically fit and on moving the ball at a really fast pace."

"Everyone knows their role and in some ways it's maybe similar to Italy but the pace is quicker." "I'm not a No 9. I'm an attacking midfielder but I can also play out wide or just in behind the main striker."

"It all comes down to how Ange wants to play in the end and I'm happy to adapt to any position. I haven't had much time to adapt to the way he wants to play but it's good for me because I like challenges."

"There are so many different aspects to playing in the reserves in Scotland and playing with Victory. Everything is different and the whole atmosphere is different. It's so much better here."

"In my career so far I've been used to playing on the wings, getting the ball to feet and getting at players and going past them. That's one of my main characteristics."

"But Ange's style of play is a lot to do with what you do without the ball and it's something I think I'll be good at. At training I've been playing in a more central role so maybe that's what the coach has in mind for me."

And what of the future? What are Stella's immediate personal and team goals?

"We've got to keep doing what we're doing at the moment because we're doing quite well."

"On a personal note I just want to contribute as much as I can and I want to fit into the way the team is playing because for me it's a new system."

"I'm not worried about scoring goals. I'm not worried about setting up goals. I just want to fit in and play as well as I can."

And if goals flow from fitting in all well and good. Fresh from the thrill of Saturday's 2-1 success over Melbourne Heart, Stella lined up in Victory's national youth league clash with Perth Glory the following day at SS Anderson Reserve in Port Melbourne.

It proved to be a good hit-out for the new signing as he banged in three goals in 13 minutes then strolled off the pitch quite content with his part in a 7-0 mauling.

Victory fans must be drooling over the prospect of another goal-scoring attacking midfielder strutting his stuff alongside Marcos Flores, Marco Rojas and Archie Thompson while opposition coaches likely shudder at the prospect of having to combat yet another potent attacking weapon.

So far Stella's professional career has been one of opportunity lost but back in his hometown in front of family and friends and feeling more settled than he has been since 2009 the next stage of his journey may prove to be an opportunity won.

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VICTORIA'S LEADER IN TEAM WEAR



Blast From The Past



By Roy Hay

Harry Williams was the first indigenous player to appear for the Australian national team at a World Cup when he came on as substitute to replace the injured Col Curran in the final group match against Chile in West Germany in 1974.

Harry was born on 7 May 1951 in Sydney and raised along with his brother by his aunt and uncle. While a youngster in Rockdale he broke away from his elder sister at a bus stop and was hit by a bus. He survived. Harry was interested in many sports but a friend at Peakhurst School got him interested in football and that became his passion.

He was selected for the district under-16 team and played in the strong New South Wales state tournament. The St George area was a hotbed of sporting achievement and the young Williams got some excellent coaching from district goalkeeper Johnny Henderson and later from Laurie Hedges and Frank Arok.

He joined Western Suburbs in 1969 where a 'mad Scotsman', Jim McCulloch took him under his wing, but in 1970 he was back at St George and the timing was propitious. Nick Sokoloff and Frank Arok decided to try him out at full back and gave him a chance in the first team, where as he said 'he strung together half a dozen games'.

With the likes of Johnny Warren, Manfred Schaefer, Atti Abonyi and Adrian Alston around him he had plenty of support from highly demanding team-mates. In his first senior outing he came up against Joe Alagich the flying Yugal winger, but played his natural game and came through the baptism with lots of credit.

At that time Rale Rasic, the newly appointed national coach, was putting together a squad to go on an eight-week world tour in preparation for the qualifying matches for the World Cup. Rasic wanted a blend of experienced players and youngsters that he thought he could mould into a successful team. So Harry Williams was included in the group. The experience of the tour was to prove invaluable for that generation and Williams played in four games including those against Hapoel and the League of Ireland.

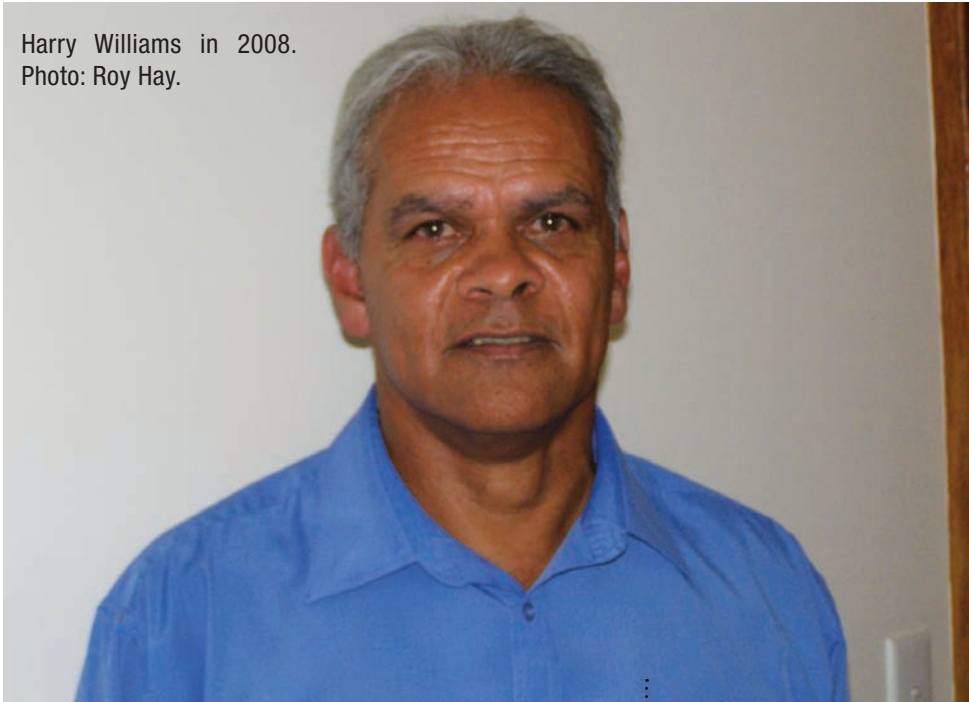
Returning to Australia he settled into the St George senior team which was never lower than third in the NSW State League from 1969 to 1976, winning the championship in 1972 and 1976. Some of Williams' tricks and skills at training had his team-mates gasping or grasping for a name to fit to his showboating efforts. Abonyi called him 'Fancy Nancy' and it stuck.

# Harry Williams: Indigenous pioneer



Harry Williams skips past a sliding tackle in St George colours, against Footscray JUST at Middle Park in the first season of the NSL, back in 1977.  
Source: Laurie Schwab collection. Deakin University Library.

Harry Williams in 2008.  
Photo: Roy Hay.



In 1974 Williams was back in the national team coming on as substitute for Johnny Warren against Indonesia and then starting against Israel, St Gallen and Young Boys of Berne in the lead-up to the World Cup finals. Col Curran was always the first choice full back for the key matches, but Williams kept him honest and was ready to step in when the opportunity occurred.

He attributed the success of the 1974 Socceroos to the closeness of the group of part-time players who were prepared to sacrifice themselves for the collective result. 'When we played West Germany,

we were matching up against superstars we had watched for years on television back home. We were playing against our idols! It's something that will stay with us for the rest of our lives,' he said later.

Williams was a regular international from 1975 through the unfortunate experience of the 1977 qualifying campaign when losses to Iran and Kuwait at home and away in the second stage meant the Socceroos could not repeat the feats of 1974. At the end of the 1977 season he moved to Canberra and joined Canberra City in the NSL.

Later still he had spells with Inter Monaro both in the NSL and the

NSW Division One, the last couple of games when he was 39.

Off the field he had worked closely with Charles Perkins, another indigenous leader and soccer player, first in Sydney and later in Canberra, where Harry Williams managed the Indigenous Services and Cultural Diversity Unit for ACT Correctional Services.

He continued to coach young players in Canberra and retained his involvement in football through the Harry Williams Cup which gives young Aboriginal players coaching and match experience and a chance to showcase their talents each year.



Harry Williams guarding the post for Canberra City.  
Source: Laurie Schwab collection. Deakin University Library.

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# Top Of The Table Classic!

Friday night played host the round 15 of the Nike V-League Premiership. There were some big results on the night with first place Pascoe Vale holding on for a draw against second place Hume. Brighton made it back-to-back victories with a 6-0 thumping of FC Prahran.

## Round 15 Brighton secure back to back victories

Brighton FC took to round 14 to record their first victory, and they looked full of confidence coming into the match against Prahran. Brighton got off to a great start and never looked back, with Prahran unable to build any momentum throughout the match.

**Brighton FC 6** (D.Rafiti 2, H.Shamon, N.Khoshaba, C.Safko, T.Bayrakli) **def. FC Prahran 0**

## Metro to hot for Morland

Alexander Stevanovic turned back the clock as he put in a sublime performance and bagged 5 goals to help his side to victory. Metro are still looking for a finish in the top 2 and it showed as their movement and passing was to good for the Moreland defence to handle.

**Metropolitan FC 9** (A.Stevanovic 5, D.Redzepovic 2, A.Karic, E.Buzo) **def. Morland FC 5** (S.Dehani 3, T.Sumbul, B.Sahin)

## Ashburton hit 10 past Balwyn

Ashburton may have kick started their season with a resounding 10-3 victory over Balwyn. Ashburton inspired by Brazilian Lucas Kruehl who scored a hat-trick on debut for his new side. The Brazilian was will supported by Mo Matar and Matteo Rocca as Ashburton were too good for Balwyn.

**Ashburton FC 10** (L.Kruehl 3, M.Matar 2, M.Rocca 2, M.Giotta, J.Afonseca, R.Ferguson) **def. FC Balwyn 3** (P.Kratz, S.Lamanda, J.Ilnatison)

## Vipers keep winning

Vic Vipers not for the first time this season have struggled to put away their opposition. The



Hanna Shamon (L) of Brighton FC celebrates his goal as Brighton record their second win of the season. Photo: DAMIAN BRIGGS



Hume FC's Resit Culculoglu scores from a corner against Pascoe Vale FC. Photo: DAMIAN BRIGGS

Vipers made tough work of the game against Fitzroy and if not for some way would finishing from Fitzroy they may have shared the points. The Vipers experience and quality was the difference in the end.

**Vic Vipers FC 3** (A.Cooper, M.Avrar, L.Stinger) **def. Fitzroy FC 1** (K.Majbourni)

## Top of the table battle goes

## down to the wire

Pascoe Vale FC keeps their gap back to Hume FC in tack when they shared the points during round 15. Hume needed victory to reduce the gap to 3 points and they started the game full of life and made Pascoe Vale work for every possession. Hume lead late on however Pascoe Vale captain Andre Caro deflected effort found its way into the back of the

net to give Pascoe Vale a share of the points.

**Pascoe Vale FC 4** (S.Soufi 2, A.Caro, F.Tadashi) **drew with. Hume FC 4** (C.Munoz, V.Mazurskiy, M.Parlak, R.Culculoglu)

## Brunswick defeat Essendon

CF Brunswick takes the points against FC Essendon,

both clubs tried to play an attacking brand of Futsal. Brunswick were up for the match and their clinical finishing was the difference between the two sides as they took the points.

**CF Brunswick 6** (C.Holmes 2, M.Barrigos 2, A.Apostolakis, J.Jimenez (OG)) **def. FC Essendon** (J.Jimenez, O.Mohammed)



CF Brunwicks Antonis Apostalakis slides in to tackle FC Essendon's Joaquin Jimenez. Photo: DAMIAN BRIGGS

## V-League Standings

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1 Pascoe Vale FC	15	13	2	0	113	54	+59	41
2 Hume FC	15	11	2	2	107	43	+64	35
3 Metropolitan FC	15	11	0	4	113	70	+43	33
4 Vic Vipers FC	15	10	3	2	74	50	+24	33
5 Ashburton FC	15	8	2	5	62	44	+18	26
6 Moreland FC	15	8	0	7	83	112	-29	24
7 Fitzroy FC	15	7	1	7	64	64	+0	22
8 CF Brunswick	15	5	0	10	62	78	-16	15
9 FC Balwyn	14	3	1	11	65	99	-34	10
10 FC Prahran	15	3	1	11	55	89	-34	10
11 FC Essendon	15	3	0	12	48	104	-56	9
12 Brighton FC	15	2	0	13	43	81	-38	6

## Round 15 Clashes Friday February 1

- CF Brunswick 6-2 FC Essendon
- Hume FC 4-4 Pascoe Vale FC
- Fitzroy FC 1-3 Vic Vipers FC
- Ashburton FC 10-3 FC Balwyn
- Moreland FC 4-9 Metropolitan FC
- Brighton FC 0-0 FC Prahran

## Round 16 Clashes Friday February 8

- 6:30pm - FC Essendon vs. Ashburton FC
- 7:20pm - CF Brunswick vs. Fitzroy FC
- 8:10pm - Vic Vipers FC vs. Metropolitan FC
- 9:00pm - Pascoe Vale FC vs. Moreland FC
- 9:50pm - FC Balwyn vs. FC Prahran
- 10:40pm - Brighton FC vs. Hume FC

## Round 17 Clashes Sunday February 10

- 2:00pm - Hume FC vs. FC Balwyn
- 3:00pm - Fitzroy FC vs. FC Essendon
- 4:00pm - Moreland FC vs. Brighton FC
- 5:00pm - Metropolitan FC vs. CF Brunswick
- 6:00pm - Pascoe Vale FC vs. Vic Vipers FC
- 7:00pm - Ashburton FC vs. FC Prahran

## Top Goal Scorers

1 Alija Redzepovic - Metropolitan FC	33
2 Juso Julardzija - Metropolitan FC	30
3 Vadim Mazurskiy - Hume FC	27
4 Ernie Simsek - Pascoe Vale FC	27
5 Burukhan Koca - Moreland FC	26

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# Victory In Seveth Heaven As Mariners Falter To Roar

By Daniel Quinn

Round 15 saw plenty of goals as the leaders of the NYL changed with the Melbourne Victory jumping onto the top after the Mariners lost to the Roar. There were also wins for the Wanderers, Newcastle and a thrilling draw played out between Adelaide and Sydney. The Western Sydney Wanderers got the round off by beating the AIS 4-1 in Canberra.

The Wanderers only took 35 seconds to get the scoring under way as Joey Gibbs stroked the ball into an open net after AIS 'keeper Luca Spinella made a meal of a clearance.

On 10 minutes Western Sydney doubled their lead as Reece Caira cut in from the left and placed his effort past Spinella at the near post.

Just before the hour mark Rocco Pizzata deflected Jake McGing's low cross past his own goalkeeper giving the visitors a 3-0 lead.

The Institute did get one back though, as Anthony Kalik rifled in an effort past substitute Wanderers 'keeper Thomas Manos.

McGing sealed the result simply finishing from close range from Daniel Barac's low cross.

The table topping Central Coast Mariners were downed by the Brisbane Roar 2-0 at Goodwin Park on Saturday afternoon.

Former Melbourne Victory youngster Julius Doe gave the Roar a great start powerfully firing home from the edge of the box on just eight minutes.

Mariners' winger Brad McDonald gave the Roar the opportunity to extend their led form the spot as the former North Queensland Fury midfielder pushed over Matthew Thurtell inside the area.

Kenneth Dougall stepped up to the spot and converted giving the Roar a 2-0 lead before the break, which the Roar held onto to secure an important three points.

Sydney FC completed a stunning comeback to take a point back



Victory keeper Tando Velaphi sends the ball whistling past the head of team-mate Jason Geria as they combine to stop Glory's Ndumba Makeche ffrom threatening the goalPhoto: JOHN PUNSHON

home as the Sky Blues came from three goals down with 30 minutes left in a stunning 3-3 draw with Adelaide United.

The Reds got off to a perfect start with John Karatzas feinting a shot before blasting into the back of the net in just the first minute.

Just before the break Thomas Briscoe doubled the lead finishing off the scraps from close-range.

It seemed Karatzas sealed the three points with a super header from Liam Wooding's corner.

But Sydney fought back as Alex Uroevski scored twice inside six minutes, which included a magnificent chest down and finish from a tight angle.

Three minutes before time Jacob Melling handled in the box and

was given his second yellow card. Jared Lum stepped up and calmly equalized for the visitors completing the superb comeback.

The Melbourne Victory capitalized on Central Coast's defeat to beat the Perth Glory 7-0 at SS Anderson on Sunday afternoon, which leapfrogs the Victory to the top of the NYL ladder.

Luke O'Dea's sweetly hit corner was glanced in off the back post by senior defender Sam Gallagher on just 15 minutes to open the scoring.

Five minutes later the Victory doubled their early advantage as Andrew Nabbout sped past a couple of Perth defenders and coolly slotted past Glory 'keeper Jordan Franken, who was truly amazing between the sticks.

Gallagher completed his brace ten minutes after the resumption with a stunning strike that looped over Franken.

On 77 minutes Francesco Stella scored his first firing into an open net, after Chris Cristaldo had his effort sandwiched between a Glory defender and the post.

Two minutes later Stella was at hand to tap in Matt Foschini's drilled cross from a yard out.

In stoppage-time Stella finished off his thirteen-minute hat-trick drilling in from the edge of the area, before John Buceto added the seventh from a strike from the corner of the box.

The Newcastle Jets eased past the Melbourne Heart with a 5-2 victory at Wanderers Oval on Sunday

evening.

Bernardo Ribeiro got the Jets off to a great start with a nice finish at the back post, before Mitch Oxborough and Mitch Cooper combined well to feed Adam Taggart who calmly slotted past Heart 'keeper Chris Maynard.

On the stroke of half time Zenon Caravella stroked home, after Taggart's effort clattered off the crossbar.

Taggart grabbed his second from the edge of the box on 53 minutes, before Zac Walker pulled one back for the Heart with a sublime curling strike.

Walker completed his brace on 70 minutes with another great strike, but Newcastle finished off the contest as Taggart completed his hat-trick eight minutes later.

## Round 15 Results

Newcastle Jets 5 (Taggart 34, 53, 78, Ribiero 5, Caravella 44)  
Melbourne Heart 2 (Walker 58, 70)

Melbourne Victory 7 (Gallagher 15, 55, Nabbout 20, Stella 77, 79, 90, Buceto 90+4)  
Perth Glory 0

Adelaide United 3 (Karatzas 1, 54, Briscoe 42)  
Sydney FC 3 (Uroevski 65, 71, Lum 87)

Brisbane Roar 2 (Julius Doe 8', Kenneth Dougall 33')(P)  
Central Coast Mariners 0

AIS 1 (Anthony Kalik 63')  
Western Sydney Wanderers 4 (Joseph Gibbs 1', Reece Caira 10', Rocco Pizzatta (og) 59', Jake McGing 76')

## NYL Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
1 Melbourne Victory	15	11	0	4	16	32	33
2 CC Mariners	15	11	0	4	33	24	9
3 Newcastle Jets	15	7	1	6	43	32	11
4 Brisbane Roar	15	7	2	6	30	28	2
5 Adelaide United	15	6	4	5	33	27	6
6 Melbourne Heart	15	7	1	7	27	25	2
7 Perth Glory FC	15	6	1	8	37	41	-4
8 WS Wanderers	15	5	4	6	23	33	-10
9 Sydney FC	15	5	2	8	36	40	-4
10 AIS	15	1	1	13	16	60	-44

## Round 16 Fixtures

Saturday 9 February KO 10:30 AM  
Central Coast Mariners v Perth Glory  
Centre of Excellence, Tuggerah

Saturday 9 February KO 5:30 PM  
Adelaide United v Melbourne Victory  
Burton Park

Sunday 10 February KO 2:15 PM  
Sydney FC v Brisbane Roar  
Allianz Stadium

Sunday 10 February KO 3:00 PM  
Melbourne Heart v AIS  
John Cain Memorial Res, Thornbury

Sunday 10 February KO 3:00 PM  
Western Sydney v Newcastle Jets  
Cook Park, St Marys

KO times ae AEDT



Melbourne Victory Youth had plenty to smile about in their 7-0 demolition of Perth Glory. Players (from left) are Jimmy Jeggo, Mathew Foschini, Sam Gallagher and Jason Geria.

Inset: The end of a busy day for the dcoreboard attendant at Anderson Reserve, home of the Victory Youth. Photos: JOHN PUNSHON



Mariner's 'keeper David Bradasevic under pressure from ROAR's James Donachie. Photo: KEITH EIGELAND



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# SUDAMERICANO CONCLUDES WITH DRAMATIC CLIMAX



## Latin Wrap

By Francis Fields

The Under 20 World Cup qualifiers for FIFA Turkey 2013 finished up in dramatic fashion as expected.

What is regionally known as the 'Sudamericano' were interesting scenes. As covered, heavyweights Argentina and Brazil were knocked out in blunt ways as neither could manage to progress the first group round.

There are several names that need to be watched. Names like Sevilla's Bryan Rabello of Chile highlighted that a classic number ten is still produced but also with the flair of an attacking midfielder. Rabello displayed perhaps a more modern version of the like than Colombia's Juan Fernando Quintero. Rabello strikes a superb right-foot deadly in set pieces and has vision for the opposing penalty area and an innate ability to resolves problems in tight spaces. Nicolás Castillo also displayed a killer instinct for goal up front for the Chileans scoring three goals as well.

Another Nicolás excelled, in Nicolás Lopez of Uruguay. As the tournament top scorer. Slight and sleek, his movement is sensational. He can use his acceleration to operate up front but also likes to drop back and recover the ball to help set up another transition of play. López's left-foot finishing is world standard too.

All three have been a joy to watch – and all three are already playing their club football in Europe.

Quintero moved to Pescara in Italy after catching the eye with a series of promising displays off the bench for Atlético Nacional of Medellín in last year's Copa Libertadores.

Sevilla of Spain picked up Rabello after the 2011 South American Under-17 Championship to follow the foot steps of compatriot Gary Medel, while López managed only a few games for Nacional of Montevideo before Serie A side AS Roma swooped him.

For Peru, Yordy Reyna, Miguel Araujo and Andy Polo were up to the task and all getting on the score sheet despite not qualifying.

In all three cases a magnificent young talent was identified on time, and – on the evidence of the current tournament – correctly with the right technique, style, rhythm although most important still need to refine their attitudes to discipline or rather, professionalism.

Of course, these moves are always a gamble. Living abroad is not for everyone – especially for a teenager and a South American player grown up in difficult circumstances. A constant problem is evident in the time a lot of these talents remain in the reserves of their respective European club sides.

Paraguyan midfielder Rodrigo



Colombia and Chile qualified with the coffee makers claiming the 2013 Sudamericano title

Alborno may well be a case to prove in Turkey. He made an impact in his debut for club side Libertad in the Copa Libertadores at just sixteen.

In reviwieing teams in general, it was Chile who took a commanding lead in comparison to all the other sides in both groups with victory in all their scheduled matches but one. The Chileans did however boast the worse disciplinary record in the tournament.

Talking of discipline or ill-discipline rather, Colombia has shaken up its stigma of under-performing by reaching the final stage and finishing up in top spot.

Paraguay's hard-fought victory over in Chile in the final stage was purely driven by motivation. The "guaranies" showed a solid mid-field and surprised a talented Chilean side bringing them straight back to earth.

This 2013 qualifying tournament was heavily criticised as being poorly organised. It is not the first time that Argentinian authorities get the tag of poor organisers, bringing a recent reminder of the inability to run the 2011 Copa América smoothly.

Then the most bizarre controversy in recent youth tournaments. When Peru took on Ecuador in the group stage, Peru's hulking centre back Max Barrios was, apparently, one of the youngest players present in the tournament, taking place in Argentina. He was listed as having been born on 15 September 1995. Doubts were raised, though – and not just about his age. His name and even his nationality are also being called into question.

The problems for Barrios began when Peru met Ecuador in the group phase. Barrios looked familiar to some of the opposing players – and also to people watching the game on TV in Ecuador.

Allegations were made that the Peru number 16 was in fact an Ecuadorian by the name of Juan

Carlos Espinoza, nearly 26 years of age, who had played for Liga de Loja while it was in the second division. Former coaches claimed to have identified him, and a formal complaint was made.

The confusion with Espinoza could merely be a case of mistaken identities, although this theory is being greeted with increasing scepticism. Peru ended losing fourth spot to rival neighbours Chile with a 1-1 draw ending their hopes.

Looking back at previous Under 20 World Cup campaigns by South American participants, recent ones like in the Netherlands in 2005 or the Canadian tournament in 2007 showcased world class names of the likes of Lionel Messi, Sergio Agüero and Arturo Vidal to mention a few but their child-like innocence and degree of immaturity was still there to see on and off the pitch.

It takes at least two years of work for coaching staff at this age-group level to fully begin to bear fruit. Néstor Pekerman - how at the helm of the Colombia senior side left an impeccable legacy with Argentina, a feat that Marcelo Trobbiani failed miserably.

A great deal of influence is also attained to the ever-present media who further implode these youngsters to superstardom.

There can be excuses printed on the next day's paper headlines of poor refereeing but nobody can deny the poor acts of discipline. For Chile, having performed exception at group-stage level does not merit its players to be dancing after each goal scored or the spray-painting of hair.

They are after all at age, early role models and poster boys for adolescent girls who flew or drove to the stadiums of San Juan and Mendoza to watch and support. This is football in South America remember.

Uruguay did their part with a mission on its head.

The trip to Turkey is now four

months away for the four qualified CONMEBOL teams and their development will be very interesting.

Some players were called up purely on club form, some missed out due to first-team obligations whilst others are long-term projects and a select few some kind of experiment or neccessity for playing at international level at this age group due to a bloodline relationship or dual nationality status.

In saying this, the objective is not that far. This qualification ensures that Paraguay also travels to Turkey in second place.

## Maradona denies Italian tax evasion

Diego Maradona has denied claims from the Italian tax authorities that he owes the government money from his time at Napoli.

The Italian Treasury claim that the former Argentina legend owes 30 million euros from his seven-year spell in the country in which he made more than180 appearances for Napoli.

The 52-year-old has refuted these claims and admitted that he hopes to return to Stadio San Paolo having being proven innocent.

"They haven't got evidence to come after me or to persecute me," he said in a video released by his lawyers, shown on Corriere.it.

"I'm not a tax evader. I never have been because I only played soccer.

"I appeal to the politicians. I didn't steal anything. If I did things wrong, it was about other stuff. I want to return to Naples freely.

"I cannot freely return to Naples with peace of mind and this is not right.

"They are robbing me of the chance to see again the people of Naples, who I love."

The former Argentina coach al-



The final draw of the FIFA Under 20 World Cup to be held in Turkey will be held in March.

## SudAmericano U20

Final Group - Final Standings										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	G	D	Pts	
1 Colombia	5	4	0	1	6	3	+3	12		
2 Paraguay	5	3	1	1	7	4	+3	10		
3 Uruguay	5	3	0	2	5	3	+2	9		
4 Chile	5	2	1	2	7	6	+1	7		
5 Peru	5	1	2	2	6	8	-2	5		
6 Ecuador	5	0	0	5	4	11	-7	0		

### Results

Peru 1 - 1 Paraguay  
Colombia 1 - 0 Uruguay  
Chile 0 - 1 Uruguay  
Peru 0 - 1 Colombia

Paraguay 1 - 0 Ecuador  
Chile 1 - 0 Colombia  
Peru 3 - 2 Ecuador  
Colombia 1 - 0 Uruguay

Chile 0 - 1 Uruguay  
Peru 0 - 1 Colombia  
Paraguay 1 - 0 Ecuador  
Chile 1 - 0 Colombia

Peru 3 - 2 Ecuador  
Paraguay 1 - 0 Uruguay  
Uruguay 1 - 0 Ecuador  
Chile 1 - 1 Peru  
Colombia 2 - 1 Paraguay

### Top Scorers

N. Castillo (Chile)	3
J. Quintero (Colombia)	3
Y. Reyna (Peru)	3
J. Alonso (Paraguay)	2
E. Esterilla (Ecuador)	2
N. López (Uruguay)	2

again." Another player Scolari reserved praise for was Bayern Munich centre-back Dante, who made his international debut for the Brazil first-team against the Three Lions. "I'm very satisfied with him, and we have won another great centre-back for the future," he said.

Until next week, adiós.



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## London Calling



By Samuel Collins

For the second successive January, Newcastle United appear to have benefited most from the mid-season transfer window.

Last year, with the Magpies flourishing in sixth-place in the Premier League, coach Alan Pardew brought Senegalese striker Papiss Cisse to the club from German side Hoffenheim. Cisse scored on his debut against Aston Villa at St James' Park and would go on to net 13 goals in 14 league games. With the Tyneside outfit 19 points worse off now than at this stage last season, it was no surprise to see owner Mike Ashley back chief scout Graham Carr's knowledge in the transfer market last month, particularly given his awareness of players from France. And it's in Ligue 1 where Newcastle did the majority of their business in January - spending £17.5m in total - bringing in five players.

Just like Cisse twelve months ago, new signing Moussa Sissoko enjoyed the perfect home debut. The box-to-box midfielder - signed for a measly £2.2m with his contract at Toulouse near expiration - netted twice in the 3-2 victory against Chelsea on the weekend. Other new faces include highly-rated centre-back Mapou Yanga-Mbiwa (£6.7m) and France right-back Mathieu Debuchy (£5m), signed

## Few spenders in January market



Moussa Sissoko repays the Magpies with a dream 2-goal debut against Chelsea.

from Montpellier and Lille respectively. The ability of these players was well-known prior to their transfers to England, but it's the bargain fees that they have been attained for that impress most. Former additions from France include Hatem Ben Arfa (January 2011) - Pardew's first Newcastle signing - and Yohan Cabaye (June 2011), both signed for a total fee of £9.4m. That figure wouldn't be enough to command either individual now, a testament to the admirable work behind the scenes at the club.

"I love France and French players," Carr admitted to L'Equipe recently, "The country's youth academy system is so good." But it's not just Newcastle who have exploited the talent available in Ligue 1, Premier League clubs have spent a combined £170m on

players from the French top-flight in the past three years - only Spain (£200m) have taken more money from English clubs during that period. Carr pinpoints the ability of Frenchman to integrate within the squad efficiently, and plays down concerns regarding the influx of foreigners to the Premier League. 62% of the total expenditure in January was on players from abroad. "They are very professional and clever. They understand quickly the culture," an adamant Carr explains.

Newcastle were among three clubs, the others being Queens Park Rangers and Liverpool, who accounted for 50% of the £117m spent by Premier League clubs in the market. This total is an increase on last January (£60m), but a decrease on two years ago, when a record £225m

was splashed out. And while the mid-season window has it's drawbacks, often criticised by coaches, spending has increased significantly in recent times. The first four January markets (2003-2006) saw £230m spent, compared with £442m in the past four windows (2010-2013). The most expensive signing last month was Wilfried Zaha (£15m), who will join Manchester United from Crystal Palace in the summer, while Mario Balotelli's £19m departure from Manchester City to AC Milan was the highest fee received by an English club.

With half of the spending of Premier League sides in January laid out by just three teams, Dan Jones, partner in the sports business group at Deloitte, cites that owners are now actively preparing for UEFA's Financial Fair Play

(FFP), which will be introduced at the end of this season. "The apparent relative restraint in this transfer window may reflect an increasing focus on clubs achieving more sustainable levels of expenditure relative to revenues," Jones revealed.

It appears some European leagues are more advanced in their acknowledgement of FFP. Less money was spent in the whole of Spain than QPR spent on defender Christopher Samba (£12.5m) alone, and while French clubs spent £49.5m, 70% of that total was made by one club, billionaire-owned Paris Saint-Germain, who paid Sao Paulo £34.2m for the services of Brazilian wonderkid Lucas Moura. In Italy, champions Juventus opted to sign veteran forward Nicolas Anelka on a six-month deal, with Spanish striker Fernando Llorente due to arrive on a free transfer in July, while in Germany, runaway leaders Bayern Munich - who possibly pulled off the best signing of all, with former Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola arriving this summer - made one addition, Mainz's talented centre-back Jan Kirchhoff, though he won't arrive until next season, and he'll cost nothing. Lucrative deals still took place; Russian side Anzhi bought winger William from Shakhtar for £30m, and Turkish club Galatasaray added notable names in Wesley Sneijder & Didier Drogba to their squad, both on circa £200k a week between them.

But with the majority of clubs keeping their powder dry in January, one would assume owners are finally taking notice of the impending FFP.

**International friendlies wrap: England betas Brazil, Argentina win**

England gave an assured performance against Luiz Felipe Scolari's Brazil, recording their first win over the five-time World Cup winners since 1990 at Wembley.

Ronaldinho had a chance to open the scoring in his unofficial 100th appearance for the Selecao but was denied from the penalty spot by Joe Hart. Eight minutes later, Wayne Rooney showed the 32-year-old how to finish, stroking a loose ball into the back of the net after a good save by Julio Cesar.

Substitute Fred equalised swiftly after half-time before one of Roy Hodgson's own introductions, Frank Lampard, smashed the Three Lions back into the lead.

Ashley Cole became only England's seventh centurion, picked to start for the 100th time, while Manchester United centre-back Chris Smalling was an unexpected selection in defence.

Ronaldinho was handed a first start for Brazil after almost a year in the international wilderness, adding experience to a young, vibrant side headlined by the dazzling talent of Neymar.

Ecuador came from behind to stun Portugal, while Sergio Aguero and Gonzalo Higuain were on target as Argentina beat Sweden on Wednesday. Cristiano Ronaldo and Helder Postiga had appeared to have steadied Portugal, who went behind to an Antonio Valencia goal in the second minute in Guimaraes.

But Paulo Bento's men were set for a shock friendly loss as a Joao Pereira own goal and Felipe Caicedo's 70th-minute effort saw Ecuador to the surprise 3-2 win.

In an entertaining affair in Solna, Argentina edged Sweden 3-2 but were in control for the most part.

A Mikael Lustig own goal gave the South Americans the lead before Jonas Olsson cancelled out the opener in the 18th minute.

Aguero and Higuain were on the scoresheet as Alejandro Sabella's men took control of the encounter, and they held on despite Rasmus Elm's stoppage-time goal.

Mario Mandzukic, Dario Srna, Nikica Jelavic and Mladen Petric netted in Croatia's 4-0 thrashing of South Korea.

Elsewhere, a Shinji Okazaki brace helped Japan to a 3-0 win over Latvia, while Dusan Tadic scored twice in Serbia's come-from-behind 3-1 victory against Cyprus.

The Czech Republic were 2-0 winners against Turkey, Macedonia were surprisingly comfortable 3-0 victors over Denmark and Dries Mertens struck a late winner as Belgium overcame Slovakia 2-1.

Chile held on for a 2-1 win over Egypt, Lior Refaelov's late goal gave Israel a 2-1 victory against Finland and Gareth Bale was on the scoresheet in Wales' 2-1 defeat of Austria.

Hungary and Belarus played out a 1-1 draw, Bosnia and Herzegovina easily disposed of Slovenia 3-0 and Ukraine were 2-0 winners against Norway.

The Republic of Ireland were too good for Poland in a 2-0 win and Romania scored twice in the last 10 minutes to beat Australia 3-2.

Malta and Northern Ireland saw out a scoreless draw, as did Greece and Switzerland, while Russia overcame Iceland 2-0, Scotland beat Estonia 1-0 and Georgia defeated Albania 2-1.

Kazakhstan recorded a 3-1 win over Moldova and Azerbaijan posted a 1-0 win over Liechtenstein



By Alex Milic

**Bosnia and Herzegovina was too good for neighbours Slovenia in an international friendly winning 3:0 with goals from Ibisevic, Pjanic and Svraka.**

Safet Susic, manager, Bosnia and Herzegovina said following the match, "I think the result was too high considering the opponent. I congratulate my players on a fine display and the importance of friendly matches. The result was not that much important but what is important is the players attitude to the match and performance. Slovenia had a couple of chances in the second half and I wish them all the best in their qualification campaign."

The teams most capped player and star playmaker Zvezdan Misimovic was not in the squad for the match against Slovenia. Susic says, "I still count on Misimovic, the problem is he has not played for a long time at club level."

Stoke City number on Asmir Begovic was in fine form and along with Miralem Pjanic was one of the best players on the night.

Pjanic says, "The opponent was good, meaning the match was never going to be easy. We are satisfied. We scored three goals and didn't



Safet Susic

concede any. I believe we are ready for the next World Cup qualifier against Greece, I just hope we are all fit and healthy for that match."

One of the finest players of his generation, Safet Susic is now making his mark as Bosnia and Herzegovina national team coach, having guided his side to the top of 2014 FIFA World Cup qualifying Group G unbeaten.

Susic says, "Our people love football very much," said the 57-year-old, who took the reins in 2009. "You can't walk around our towns without seeing 100 boys dressed in national team jerseys, usually wearing the names of [Edin] Dzeko, [Zvezdan]

Misimovic or [Miralem] Pjanic. In our country, there have always been top talents - not a large choice of players, because we are a small country, but there has never been a lack of talent."

Susic was one of those talents, starring for FK Sarajevo and Paris Saint-Germain FC and scoring 21 times in 54 outings for Yugoslavia during an illustrious career. In 2003, he joined the likes of Alfredo Di Stefano, Bobby Moore and Johan Cruyff in being named his country's Golden Player as part of UEFA's 2004 jubilee celebrations. Now Susic is tasked with inspiring

and leading a new generation - a team he took to the brink of UEFA EURO 2012 qualification, only to suffer play-off defeat at the hands of Portugal. That was a carbon copy of their 2010 World Cup fate under Miroslav Blazevic, an outcome Susic believes will not be repeated on the road to Brazil 2014.

"The players in my team are extremely intelligent and ambitious," said Susic. "They want to learn, they want to improve their quality, and from a defeat, especially a big defeat, you can learn a lot more. We are a small country, eager to achieve great results. After

[the loss to Portugal], my players realised that only by taking a serious approach can we match those national teams."

Croatia Australian-born Josip Simunic is one of a trio of Croatia players who made their 100th international appearances on Wednesday in a friendly against North Korea, having chosen to play for his parents' home country.

Along with Dario Srna and Stip Pletikosa, Simunic collected his 100th cap for the Croatian National Team. The Aussie born defender chose to play for his parents' home country, making his debut in 2001 against South Korea and has since place at the 2002 and 2006 World Cup's and at Euro 2004 and 2008.

Croatia was too strong for North Korea winning 4:0 with goals to Mandzukic, Srna, Jelavic and Petric.

**Serbia Sinisa Mihajlovic's men came from 1:0 behind to overcome Cyprus 3:1 with a brace to Twente playmaker Dusan Tadic who set up the third for Udinese midfielder Dusan Basta.**

The Serbia team is looking for some consistency ahead of the crucial World Cup qualifier against arch rivals Croatia in March.

Serbia needs to win the match or take at least a point back to Belgrade if they have any chance of taking the trip to Brazil in 2014.

The Under 21s played out a goal-less friendly against Israel.

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EPL  
Wrap

By Andrew Bishara

# United Ooze That Title Aura...

Here's a spit-fire round up of EPL action (apologises to the teams who couldn't make it)...

There are still 14 games to play and the gap is only nine points, but the title could be out of reach for Manchester City. They lack the killer instinct of last year and despite the idea that their squad is filled to the core with quality players – the fact is, its only because a handful of players are performing that they are still in the title race...

Unlike Manchester United, who have that championship aura about them with players contributing all over the pitch. A couple of weeks ago, I read an article that perfectly summed up the United's current season: minimum effort, maximum result...

Compared to the Tottenham who need to give it their all, if they are to go anywhere. They're one point behind third-place Chelsea now after winning 1-0, but unless they are firing on all cylinders, the whole "minimum effort Etc" won't help them. But thankfully for them...

Arsenal are just the same. Has their ever been a team which is so consistent at being inconsistent? Fans actually don't know which team is going to turn up: the explosive Gunners or the defensively inept side? But everyone knows... Which Chelsea side will turn up: one that looks tired and out of the



Agüero scores from a near impossible angle to keep City's title hopes alive

ideas, and this is with the "ideas man" Benitez at the helm. For a manager known for his defensive attributes, Chelsea looks a mess, with confidence draining out of the squad...

And filling up the Liverpool squad. The vast improvement of the Reds was widely unsuspected this early in Brendan Rodgers' reign. They are showing a panache and don't look too far from being a real force. They just have to win the games they dominate...

Exactly like QPR, who really need to win some games. Drawing isn't too bad for any team trying to stay up, but QPR can't rely on one-point games, they need three if they are going to stay up. They're playing well enough, just like...

Wigan, who are playing just as good, but like QPR, prefer drawing. That's three draws in the last five games; one win in the last eight, but at least they have the belief that they'll stay up. They've done it before, so they know what to do. Especially compared to...

Aston Villa, who increasing look like they are going down. Yes, I know, they were good against Everton and were unlucky to drop

the three points, but they've played poorly for a while now. And they look like they've accepted defeat. Which is something...

That Reading hasn't accepted yet. Their win over Sunderland, was their third victory in the last four; the other being that amazing comeback draw against Chelsea. They're now out of the relegation zone and might survive...


Just like Newcastle, who ought to thank their newly formed French Legion for getting them out of trouble. They spent heavily in the winter transfer window, to show they have some financial muscle. Which is funny...

Because Everton need money, so they can make the Champions League, but they don't have a cent to spend. So if they make it, they'll show that money doesn't bring success, just like Manchester City are learning...

## EPL Preview.

A couple of seasons ago, the Gunners were once called, 'L'Arsenal', thanks to the squad list being littered with French talent. Now, there is a new legion in England, but it doesn't originate from London;

ENGLAND EPL



Last5games  
Most recent first

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
1 Manchester United	25	20	2	3	60	31	+29	62	WWDWW
2 Manchester City	25	15	8	2	47	21	+26	53	DDWWW
3 Chelsea	25	13	7	5	51	27	+24	46	LDWWW
4 Tottenham Hotspur	25	13	6	6	42	29	+13	45	WDDDW
5 Everton	25	10	12	3	40	30	+10	42	DWDDW
6 Arsenal	25	11	8	6	49	29	+20	41	WDWLL
7 Liverpool	25	9	9	7	44	32	+12	36	DDWLW
8 Swansea City	25	8	10	7	34	28	+6	34	LDWDD
9 West Bromwich ...	25	10	4	11	34	35	-1	34	LDLLL
10 Stoke City	25	6	12	7	24	30	-6	30	LDLLL
11 West Ham United	25	8	6	11	28	36	-8	30	WLDDL
12 Sunderland	25	7	8	10	28	33	-5	29	LDWWL
13 Fulham	25	7	7	11	36	42	-6	28	LWLDD
14 Norwich City	25	6	10	9	25	40	-15	28	DDLLD
15 Newcastle United	25	7	6	12	33	44	-11	27	WWLDL
16 Southampton	25	5	9	11	33	44	-11	24	DLDDW
17 Reading	25	5	8	12	32	46	-14	23	WDWWL
18 Wigan Athletic	25	5	6	14	29	47	-18	21	DDLDD
19 Aston Villa	25	4	9	12	23	49	-26	21	DLDDL
20 QPR	25	2	11	12	18	37	-19	17	DDDDW

instead it's in Tyneside where the French now call home.

The late signings of Mapou Yanga-Mbiwa (Montpellier), Mathieu Debuchy (Lille), Moussa Sissoko (Toulouse) Yoan Gouffran (Bordeaux) and Massadio Haidara (Nancy) has brought the number of French players in Newcastle United to nine. This includes, the already impressive line-up of Yohan Cabaye, Hatim Ben-Afra, Gabriel Obertan and Romain Amalfitano.

Why the obsession with the French? It's easy. The French have proven to be success when it comes to the English Premier League. Technically and tactically, they are better, compared to their English counterparts (thanks to the Youth Academies in France) so when they arrive on the shores of England, it merely takes time for them to adjust to the pace and physicality of the English.

Which makes Newcastle's latest splurge a good call. But it's not a question of why they're bought these players, but "why" so late have Newcastle decided to spend the dosh?

Before the season began, Alan Pardew insisted that Newcastle spend if they were to repeat their

successes of late season, as well compete in the Europa League. He got some, but not enough.

Now, more than halfway through the season, owner Mike Ashley has let the purse strings out and suddenly, a host of talent has come in. But is it too late?

The Baggies are closer to the bottom, than to the top. Six points separate them from Wigan, who is holding the last place of relegation. While, fifteen points is the gap between them and Everton (who hold the Europa League spot).

It's then, easy to say, that if Pardew had gotten the players he wanted, Newcastle would be higher on the table. Like mentioned, it takes time for news players to adapt to a new league. Moussa Sissoko's stunning debut against Chelsea showed his talent. Imagine, if he already had six months experience behind him?

Then there's the depth question: Newcastle suffered a heinous run of injuries to key players, derailing their campaign and Pardew had little to turn to.

Credit is due to Pardew, who managed to keep the side from completely collapsing on itself (aka. Aston Villa), as well as progress-

Latest Results	This Week
QPR 0 - 0 Norwich City	Tottenham v Newcastle Utd
Arsenal 1 - 0 Stoke City	Chelsea v Wigan Athletic
Everton 3 - 3 Aston Villa	Norwich City v Fulham
Newcastle Utd 3 - 2 Chelsea	Stoke City v Reading
Reading 2 - 1 Sunderland	Sunderland v Arsenal
West Ham 1 - 0 Swansea City	Swansea City v QPR
Wigan 2 - 2 Southampton	Southampton v Man City
Fulham 0 - 1 Man Utd	Aston Villa v West Ham
WBA 0 - 1 Tottenham	Manchester United v Everton
Man City 2 - 2 Liverpool	Liverpool v West Bromwich

**One To Watch This Weekend...**  
Last season, the same game, ended up costing Manchester United the title. The stakes aren't as high this time around, but Everton has been brilliant this season, so expect them to take on United, who hasn't performed to their best lately.

# Rodgers Rebuilding The Red Half Of Merseyside

London Eye





By Robert Davis

Liverpool's inclusion in the so called 'top six' of the Premier League in recent years can only be down to the illustrious history of the five time European champions.

Not since the 2008-2009 season under Rafael Benitez have the red half of Merseyside looked close to gaining a Champions League spot, let alone challenging for the title. The seasons after saw a dispute erupt between owners George Gillett and Tom Hicks, an altercation which spilled onto the footballing side of things, ultimately seeing the successful tenure of Benitez come to and end as well as their league position notably descend.

Fast forward past the unfortunate spells of Roy Hodgson and Kenny Dalglish and whilst the league position remains the same, the feeling of stability and forward motion reappearing in a club that's history demands high standards.

Brendan Rodgers arrived from Swansea City in the summer with a glowing list of references that included Jose Mourinho and a brand of football not accustom to that of the Premier League. The decision to appoint the 40-year-old was greeted with a mixed reaction from the Kop faithful but for the neutral, seeing a young British coach get the chance to manage one of the biggest teams in the country was a bold move that grabbed attention.



It's a work in progress at Anfield for manager for Brendan Rodgers, as he aims to deliver Liverpool's first championship success since 1989/90.

The bold move from the board was greeted with big changes from the new man in charge. Out went record signing Andy Carroll, deemed not capable of playing in Rodgers' system, in came the inexperienced Joe Allen for a massive £15m, a big fee for the diminutive Welsh midfielder.

Carroll wasn't the only big name to be moved on by Rodgers though. Dirk Kuyt, Joe Cole, Alberto Aquilani, Charlie Adam and Maxi Rodriguez to name a few were also shown the door in an almighty reshuffle at Anfield, whilst following Allen into Liverpool was Roma's Fabio Borini and Moroccan winger Oussama Assaïdi from Heerenveen.

Expected to follow the big names out of the gates of Anfield were regular scapegoats and excuse providers, Stewart Downing and Jordan Henderson, two players who have certainly failed to live up to the weight of expectations put on their heads and reportedly cost £20m each.

With the confidence of both players at its lowest it has been in their respective careers, Rodgers cleverly used the media to state his feelings towards the players. Whereas most managers would side step questions regarding certain players poor performances or expectations, Rodgers went on record to say that both Henderson and Downing needed to 'up their

game' if they are to play for a club of Liverpool's stature.

The result? Much more consistent performances from the England internationals. Silly, nervous mistakes are being eradicated from their game as Rodgers slowly introduced them to the starting eleven, with the two having both started the past three matches in a row.

A poor start saw Liverpool win only two of their first eleven matches, the first of those wins coming on the sixth time of asking. Disjointed performances saw them suffer their worst start to a season since 1903. The pressure was certainly on Rodgers, the problem was, it wasn't starting to

show.

Three key aspects halted any kind of panic within the Anfield ranks. A manager that appeared calm under pressure at all times in front of the media, players that seemed genuinely dedicated in helping their new manager become a success, and a set of supporters who were prepared to be patient and back a new managerial regime.

Fans will always appreciate seeing academy players come through their own youth ranks to make senior debut's amongst the first team, especially in today's age of modern football more than any other. Rodgers instantly thrust the highly rated winger Raheem Sterling into the limelight as well as handing first team opportunities to defender Andre Wisdom and Spanish youngster Suso.

Providing the academy players with first team experience sends a message to the supporters that not only is the manager delving into a youth system that has provided the likes of terrace hero's Robbie Fowler and Michael Owen, but is also looking to build for the long term. Supporters will always have much more patience for a young academy player as appose to an expensive, foreign signing.

Liverpool have already started seeing the benefits of the changes under Rodgers, as impressive performances have now been coinciding with results, although inconsistencies will always appear under a new manager. For every 5-0 demolition of Norwich City, there also comes a 3-1 defeat to relegation strugglers Aston Villa.

It's the performances against the sides in the top half though where Rodgers and Liverpool can count themselves unlucky. Draws against Manchester City, Arsenal and Chelsea were finely contested

and could have easily swung in favour of the 2005 Champions League winners.

Rodgers trust in youth has been greeted well by the Kop faithful, but it's his star players that continue to perform after a very troublesome start to the season.

Luis Suarez has not only reiterated his desire to stay at Liverpool under his current contract, but has also terrorised Premier League defences throughout the season. With the burden of being the only senior striker at the club pre-January transfer window, the Uruguayan has hit the back of the net 17 times already, a tally only bettered by Manchester United's Robin Van Persie.

32-year-old Steven Gerrard may be beginning to look his age, as his galavanting runs are becoming a less frequent sight, yet after a slow start by his exceptionally high standards, perhaps down to his involvement with the England national squad at the European Championships over the summer, his influence is still a major driving force within the Liverpool squad.

January arrivals in the shape of striker Daniel Sturridge and promising Brazilian midfielder Philippe Coutinho from Inter Milan add depth in quality to a Liverpool side that now looks to be finding their feet. If recent performances are anything to go by, the acquisition of Sturridge from 'top six' rivals Chelsea may be the difference between a season comfortably sitting in the top half of the table and a season mounting a possible challenge for a Champions League spot.

Former Swansea manager Rodgers won't be thinking about that though. The rebuilding project of a team that has fallen from it's perch is well and truly underway.





# Wrap Italia

By Luca Cetta

## Zeman sacked as Balotelli strikes!

Zemanlandia has been shut down after Roma sacked their Czech Coach, while Mario Balotelli netted a winning brace on his Milan debut. Juventus and Napoli triumphed, but Lazio and Inter were disappointing. His arrival was received with great adulation. Giallorossi fans had longed for his return ever since he first departed in 1999. But less than a season later, Zdenek Zeman has been sacked by Roma. The signs were there. Whispers and rumours swirled. Director Walter Sabatini admitted last week the club would “think about a change of Coach, even if only marginally.” Having replaced Luis Enrique after guiding Pescara to last season’s Serie B title, Zeman brought to Rome the typical traits of his trade. They’ve scored 49 goals – the most in the League – but conceded 42, the second highest. The Lupi sit eighth, well behind the pace required to secure a treasured Champions League place. Zeman fell out with goalkeeper Maarten Stekelenburg and fan idol Daniele De Rossi. The season had seen fluctuating performances and results, but Friday was the final straw. Roma hadn’t tasted victory since pre-Christmas as they welcomed



Super Mario Balotelli scores twice on debut for AC Milan in the 2-1 win over Udinese.

Cagliari to the Stadio Olimpico. 90 minutes later and all the bad characteristics of Zemanlandia were on show. The 4-2 result horribly exposed Roma’s defence - not for the first time. Yet Zeman failed to shirk from his system. This stubbornness proved fatal. Radja Nainggolan gave the visitors an early lead, but a Francesco Totti free kick brought Roma level. Goalkeeper Mauro Goicoechea scored an incredible own goal to gift Cagliari a goal, dropping a routine cross into his net. Marco Sau and Francesco Pisano added to the misery, before a late Marquinho consolation. The Giallorossi left the field to a chorus of boos and on Saturday the decision to sack Zeman was announced. He is replaced by Aurelio Andreazzoli, a technique coach who has been with Roma for eight years. “This was the only decision we could make,” said director Franco Baldini. “We evaluated the situation and have given the team to Aurelio Andreazzoli, who has our

faith.” Milan pulled off the coup of the transfer market by signing Mario Balotelli for €20m from Manchester City. Balotelli secured his dream move and the Rossoneri showed they can still attract top-name players. The Italian international was not expected to feature from the start when Milan faced Udinese, but a late Giampaolo Pazzini injury changed Massimiliano Allegri’s plans. Balotelli netted the first after 25 minutes, tucking home a cross, before Giampiero Pinzi equalised for the visitors. There was to be great controversy when Thomas Herteaux was adjudged to bring down Stephan El Shaarawy in the 92nd minute, although it was a clean tackle. Balotelli stepped up to continue his record of never missing a penalty. Allegri admitted afterwards it wasn’t a penalty, while Super Mario was thrilled with his start. Napoli temporarily joined Juventus

ITALY Serie A											
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5Games Most recent first		
1 Juventus	23	16	4	3	48	16	+32	52	WDWDL		
2 Napoli	23	15	4	4	45	20	+25	49	WWDWW		
3 Lazio	23	13	4	6	34	25	+9	43	LLDWW		
4 Milan	23	12	4	7	41	29	+12	40	WWWDW		
5 Internazionale	23	12	4	7	36	28	+8	40	LDDWL		
6 Fiorentina	23	11	6	6	41	27	+14	39	WLDLL		
7 Catania	23	10	5	8	31	30	+1	35	LWWDW		
8 Roma	23	10	4	9	49	42	+7	34	LLDLL		
9 Udinese	23	8	9	6	34	33	+1	33	LWLWW		
10 Parma	23	8	7	8	30	31	-1	31	LLDDW		
11 Torino	23	6	11	6	27	26	+1	28	DDWWD		
12 Chievo	23	8	4	11	24	36	-12	28	LWDLW		
13 Atalanta	23	8	4	11	21	33	-12	26	WLDLL		
14 Bologna	23	7	4	12	32	33	-1	25	WDLWL		
15 Sampdoria	23	7	5	11	28	29	-1	25	DWLDW		
16 Cagliari	23	6	6	11	25	40	-15	24	WDDWL		
17 Genoa	23	5	6	12	25	37	-12	21	WDLWW		
18 Pescara	23	6	2	15	19	48	-29	20	LLLLW		
19 Siena	23	6	5	12	23	33	-10	17	WLWLL		
20 Palermo	23	3	8	12	20	37	-17	17	LLDLL		

at the top of the table on Saturday, winning 2-0 versus Catania. Marek Hamsik converted Juan Zuniga’s low cross to give the hosts the lead in pouring rain. Zuniga then looked to handle inside the penalty area but protests were waved away. Just before half-time captain Paolo Cannavaro sealed the result. However, Juventus re-opened their lead with a 2-1 success at Chievo. Depleted by injury and suspension, the Bianconeri made the perfect start when Alessandro Matri volleyed home. Stephan Lichtsteiner doubled the advantage before the break, but Cyril Theureau made things interesting just after half-time. It was a weekend to forget for Lazio and Inter. The capital club were two goals behind against Genoa, after Marco Borriello and Andrea Bertolacci fired home. Sergio Floccari and a late Stefano Mauri penalty looked to have secured a point, but on his Genoa debut Marco Rigoni headed truly deep into injury time.

Inter fell behind to bottom club Siena when Innocent Emeghara turned in from close range. Antonio Cassano’s cross beat everybody to find the net a minute later, but Alesio Sestu curled in spectacularly from outside the area to restore the lead. Christian Chivu saw red after the interval and Alessandro Rosina converted the resulting penalty to lift Siena off the bottom. Palermo took their place when they lost 2-1 at home to Atalanta, with Coach Gian Piero Gasperini replaced by Alberto Malesani on Monday. Torino and Sampdoria played out a goalless stalemate, as Fiorentina downed Parma 2-0. Finally, Bologna twice came from behind to defeat Pescara 3-2. This week is shaping up to be critical. On Saturday Juventus host rivals Fiorentina, before Lazio take on Napoli. Fiorentina won for the first time in 2013 last round, with Stevan Jovetic ending his goal drought. Juve are without Leon-

ardo Bonucci, but Mirko Vucinic returns from suspension. They will look to put pressure on Napoli, who can not only keep in touch with the Bianconeri, but can also pull clear of the Romans. Lazio have picked up just one point from a possible nine and sorely lacked midfield creativity against Genoa without Hernanes. He is a doubt to play, while Miroslav Klose is out for two months. Elsewhere, Inter have won just once this calendar year and must reverse the form guide against Chievo, while city rivals Milan are on the road at improving Cagliari. Sampdoria host Roma, as Atalanta look to build when they face Catania. There are two crucial relegation battles, with Bologna squaring off against Siena and Palermo entertaining Pescara. Parma will look to recover against Genoa and finally, Udinese aim to put their Milan disappointment behind them when unbeaten-in-six Torino come to town.

Latest Results	This Week
Roma 2 - 4 Cagliari	Juventus v Fiorentina
Torino 0 - 0 Sampdoria	Lazio v Napoli
Napoli 2 - 0 Catania	Parma v Genoa
Chievo 1 - 2 Juventus	Atalanta v Catania
Palermo 1 - 2 Atalanta	Cagliari v Milan
Pescara 2 - 3 Bologna	Palermo v Pescara
Siena 3 - 1 Inter	Sampdoria v Roma
Genoa 3 - 2 Lazio	Bologna v Siena
Fiorentina 2 - 0 Parma	Udinese v Torino
Milan 2 - 1 Udinese	Inter v Chievo

### One To Watch This Weekend...

Aurelio Andreazzoli has been given a glowing endorsement from former colleague Luciano Spalletti ahead of his first match in charge of Roma. He is expected to re-introduce De Rossi to the XI and it will be interesting to see what other changes he makes - strategy and personnel wise - as Roma travels to Sampdoria.



# Viva Espana

By Pepe Lopez

## Mourinho Near The End Of His Misery

Just one week from the UEFA Champions League Round of 16, 1st leg, at Estadio Santiago Bernabeu between 9 time European Champions Real Madrid and 3 time European Champions Manchester United, Real Madrid and star player Cristiano Ronaldo has suffered a major embarrassment at the hands of relegation threatened Granada FC. Ronaldo’s blush comes from scoring the only goal in a 1-0 victory for the home team from Andalusia, the world player of the year runner-up headed the ball for a goal into his team’s own net. After 2 and half controversial seasons in Madrid, Real Manager Jose Mourinho appears to have lost the faith of his players, the local media and the majority of his club’s supporters. Jose’s reign as Real’s top dog hangs by Real Madrid President Florentino Perez’s desire to claim the all elusive 10th European Champions title. Perez’s faith in Mourinho’s ability to win Europe’s top honour is that statistically, Jose is the only man to have won the UEFA Champions League as manager of two different clubs (FC



Spain celebrated Puyol’s 100th cap with a 3-2 win over Uruguay.

Porto and Inter Milan). It is the sole reason why Mourinho was brought to Madrid by payment in excess of 20 million dollars, to enable Inter Milan to release Jose out his then contract with the Italian club. The European Champions League is now the sole purpose for Jose Mourinho staying with the club for the remainder of this terrible season, as Real’s La Liga campaign has become a mere battle for UEFA Champions League qualification, trailing leaders Barcelona FC by 16 points and 2nd placed Atletico Madrid by 7 points. Admittedly, Real Madrid are midway through a 2 legged Spanish Cup Semi-Final with Barcelona FC, however after just managing a score draw at home, the odds are well stacked against Real Madrid in being able to claim any trophies in the 2012-13 season. Whilst Mourinho and Real Madrid

wastefully burn energy being under the media microscope 24/7, it’s rivals have enjoyed stirring the pot. Barcelona coaching staff and players have commented that if Barca were trailing Real Madrid by 16 points they would have already chosen a new coach. Even Atletico Madrid have gotten in the act, Atletico’s star striker Radamel Falcao had this to say during the week; “For us, it’s really great to be seven points up on Real Madrid, and we want to maintain that gap”. Back at Real, Jose’s anger continues to rage, as it should if we want to regain control, he said this of one of his own expensive midfield signings, Angel Di Maria after this week’s loss to Granada; “If you are losing a game with a few minutes to go and a player picks up an injury that isn’t serious, the doctors shouldn’t have to come on - he should make a sacrifice and

SPAIN La Liga											
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5Games Most recent first		
1 Barcelona	22	19	2	1	72	25	+47	59	DWLWW		
2 Atlético Madrid	22	16	2	4	43	21	+22	50	WLWWD		
3 Real Madrid	22	13	4	5	54	21	+33	43	LWWDW		
4 Málaga	22	10	6	6	34	20	+14	36	DWDL		
5 Real Betis	22	11	2	9	31	34	-3	35	LLDWW		
6 Valencia	22	10	4	8	31	35	-4	34	DWLWW		
7 Rayo Vallecano	22	11	1	10	31	38	-7	34	LWLWW		
8 Real Sociedad	22	9	6	7	35	28	+7	33	WDWDL		
9 Levante	22	10	3	9	28	33	-5	33	LWLLW		
10 Sevilla	22	8	5	9	29	30	-1	29	WWDWL		
11 Real Valladolid	22	8	5	9	32	29	+3	29	DLWWL		
12 Getafe	22	8	5	9	28	36	-8	29	WLDDL		
13 Athletic Club	22	7	5	10	29	42	-13	26	DWDL		
14 Espanyol	22	6	7	9	26	34	-8	25	WDWWL		
15 Real Zaragoza	22	7	3	12	22	31	-9	24	DDLLL		
16 Granada	22	6	5	11	19	32	-13	23	WLWDL		
17 Osasuna	22	5	6	11	18	26	-8	21	LWLDL		
18 Celta de Vigo	22	5	5	12	21	27	-6	20	DLDLW		
19 Mallorca	22	4	5	13	22	42	-20	17	LLLLD		
20 Deportivo La C...	22	3	7	12	27	48	-21	16	LLLDW		

play on”.  
.....  
**International friendly: Spain 3 Uruguay 1**  
**Spain came alive in the second half to dispatch Uruguay 3-1 in an engaging international friendly at Khalifa Stadium on Wednesday.** It was a landmark day for Spain, with veteran Carles Puyol picking up his 100th international cap, while Cesar Azpilicueta, Isco and Mario Suarez all made their senior debuts. A horrible error from Fernando Muslera saw Cesc Fabregas give Spain the lead, but Uruguay restored parity with a well-taken goal by Cristian Rodriguez to enter half-time all square. But the European champions would take control of the game in the second half, as Pedro scored six minutes after the restart before striking his second with a quarter of an hour remaining.

It was a moment of humiliation from Muslera that gifted Spain the lead after 16 minutes. Fabregas’ shot from 30 yards seemed like a routine catch, but the ‘keeper allowed the ball to slip from his grasp and into the back of the net. Seconds before the half-hour mark, Puyol stabbed home a cross to seemingly mark his occasion with a goal to put Spain in front, but the linesman’s flag was up for offside. The call was doubly hard for Spain to swallow because, within minutes, Uruguay were level in Doha. Martin Caceres, who looked lively at left-back throughout the first half, played a low pass into the feet of Rodriguez, who turned away from Puyol before placing his shot into the bottom corner. Uruguay, to their credit, did not seem fazed by Spain’s customary dominance of possession, and more

than matched the European champions to deservedly enter the half-time break level. But Spain started the second half on fire, and six minutes after the restart, surged back in front. Half-time substitute Gerard Pique pounced on a giveaway by the defence to release Pedro, who slid his effort into the far corner. Spain were always in control of the second half, and put the game beyond Uruguay’s reach with a quarter of an hour to go. A sweeping counter-attack saw Fabregas release David Villa, who in turn crossed for Pedro to stab home at the far post. Both sides will be in action next for their World Cup qualifiers on March 22, as Spain host Finland, while Uruguay welcome Paraguay.

Latest Results	This Week
Celta Vigo 1 - 1 R Sociedad	Valladolid 2 - 2 Athletic Club
Levante 2 - 1 R Valladolid	Osasuna 1 - 0 Celta Vigo
Real Zaragoza 0 - 0 Espanyol	Getafe 3 - 1 Deportivo
Deportivo 2 - 3 Valencia	Espanyol 3 - 2 Levante
Real Madrid 4 - 0 Getafe	Granada 1 - 0 Real Madrid
Rayo Vallecano 3 - 0 R Betis	Málaga 1 - 1 R Zaragoza
Barcelona 5 - 1 Osasuna	Sevilla 2 - 1 Rayo Vallecano
Athletic Club 3 - 0 At Madrid	Valencia 1 - 1 Barcelona
Mallorca 2 - 3 Málaga	Atlético Madrid 1 - 0 Real Betis
Sevilla 3 - 0 Granada	Real Sociedad 3 - 0 Mallorca

### One To Watch This Weekend...

It’s 2nd place v 5th place in the Spanish La Liga this weekend, it’s the Madrid derby on Sunday. However, it’s not what you think, it’s just not for real. Indeed, there’s no Real Madrid, it’s Rayo Vallecano v Atletico Madrid at Estadio Teresa Rivero. Ironically, all 3 Madrid clubs are now in position to qualify next season’s UEFA Champions League. The last time 3 clubs from 1 city qualified for the Champions League was back in 2010 when 3 London clubs Arsenal, Tottenham Hotspur and Chelsea all participated in the group stage.

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CROATIA 1.HNL																
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games		Most recent first					
1 Dinamo Zagreb	18	13	2	3	39	14	+25	41	W	L	W	L	W			
2 Hajduk Split	19	9	6	4	27	14	+13	33	W	D	D	D	W			
3 Lokomotiva	19	9	5	5	27	21	+6	32	W	L	W	D	W			
4 Rijeka	19	9	5	5	28	23	+5	32	D	W	D	W	L			
5 Slaven Koprivnica	19	9	4	6	28	26	+2	31	D	W	L	W	L			
6 Split	19	9	3	7	28	22	+6	30	L	W	W	L	W			
7 Osijek	18	5	8	5	19	17	+2	23	L	D	L	D	L			
8 Istra 1961	19	5	5	9	17	22	-5	20	L	D	L	L	W			
9 Inter Zaprešić	19	4	7	8	21	25	-4	19	L	L	L	W	D			
10 Zadar	19	4	5	10	20	36	-16	17	W	D	W	L	W			
11 Cibalia	19	4	4	11	16	31	-15	16	L	D	L	W	L			
12 Zagreb	19	4	4	11	12	31	-19	16	D	W	L	L	W			

GERMANY Bundesliga																
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games		Most recent first					
1 Bayern München	20	16	3	1	51	7	+44	51	W	W	W	D	W			
2 Borussia Dortmund	20	11	6	3	46	22	+24	39	W	W	W	W	L			
3 Bayer Leverkusen	20	11	4	5	38	26	+12	37	L	D	W	W	L			
4 Eintracht Fran...	20	11	3	6	38	31	+7	36	W	W	L	W	W			
5 Mainz 05	20	9	3	8	27	24	+3	30	L	W	D	W	L			
6 Schalke 04	20	8	5	7	33	31	+2	29	L	D	W	L	L			
7 Borussia M'gla...	20	7	8	5	28	29	-1	29	L	W	D	D	W			
8 Freiburg	20	7	7	6	25	20	+5	28	L	D	D	W	W			
9 Hamburger SV	20	8	4	8	22	26	-4	28	L	D	W	L	W			
10 Hannover 96	20	8	2	10	38	39	-1	26	L	W	L	L	W			
11 Werder Bremen	20	7	4	9	32	37	-5	25	W	L	L	D	L			
12 Stuttgart	20	7	4	9	22	35	-13	25	L	L	L	L	W			
13 Fortuna Düsseldorf	20	6	6	8	26	28	-2	24	W	L	L	W	L			
14 Nürnberg	20	6	6	8	20	27	-7	24	W	L	D	D	W			
15 Wolfsburg	20	6	5	9	21	30	-9	23	D	L	W	L	W			
16 Hoffenheim	20	4	4	12	26	44	-18	16	W	D	L	L	L			
17 Augsburg	20	2	8	10	16	32	-16	14	D	D	W	D	L			
18 Greuther Fürth	20	2	6	12	13	34	-21	12	W	L	D	L	L			

THE CHAMPIONSHIP																
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games		Most recent first					
1 Cardiff City	29	20	3	6	51	30	+21	63	W	W	D	W	W			
2 Leicester City	29	16	5	8	51	24	+27	53	W	W	W	W	W			
3 Hull City	29	16	5	8	40	31	+9	53	W	D	L	D	W			
4 Watford	30	16	4	10	58	40	+18	52	W	L	W	W	W			
5 Crystal Palace	30	14	9	7	52	37	+15	51	W	L	D	L	W			
6 Middlesbrough	29	15	2	12	47	43	+4	47	L	L	L	L	W			
7 Burnley	30	12	7	11	46	44	+2	43	D	L	W	W	W			
8 Brighton & Hov...	29	10	12	7	41	33	+8	42	L	D	D	W	W			
9 Derby County	29	11	8	10	45	41	+4	41	W	D	L	W	W			
10 Millwall	30	11	8	11	40	41	-1	41	L	L	L	D	W			
11 Nottingham Forest	30	10	11	9	40	42	-2	41	L	L	D	W	L			
12 Leeds United	29	12	5	12	39	45	-6	41	L	W	L	W	L			
13 Blackburn Rovers	29	10	10	9	40	37	+3	40	W	D	L	D	W			
14 Charlton Athletic	30	10	9	11	40	42	-2	39	L	W	L	W	W			
15 Blackpool	30	9	10	11	48	45	+3	37	L	W	L	L	D			
16 Birmingham City	30	9	10	11	40	47	-7	37	W	D	D	L	L			
17 Huddersfield Town	30	9	9	12	33	51	-18	36	L	W	D	L	L			
18 Sheffield Wedn...	30	10	5	15	36	45	-9	35	W	D	D	W	L			
19 Ipswich Town	30	9	8	13	33	51	-18	35	W	D	D	W	L			
20 Bolton Wanderers	29	8	10	11	41	43	-2	34	L	D	D	L	W			
21 Wolverhampton ...	30	9	6	15	35	43	-8	33	L	L	D	D	L			
22 Barnsley	30	8	7	15	33	45	-12	31	W	D	D	W	L			
23 Bristol City	30	8	4	18	42	58	-16	28	L	W	W	L	L			
24 Peterborough U...	29	8	3	18	41	54	-13	27	D	D	L	W	L			

Greece Super League																
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games		Most recent first					
1 Olympiakos Piraeus	20	16	3	1	44	13	+31	51	L	W	W	W	W			
2 Asteras Tripolis	20	11	5	4	29	13	+16	38	D	W	W	W	W			
3 PAOK	20	10	6	4	27	14	+13	36	D	L	D	L	W			
4 Atromitos	20	9	8	3	22	16	+6	35	W	L	W	D	W			
5 Levadiakos	20	8	4	8	17	18	-1	28	D	L	W	L	W			
6 PAS Giannina	20	7	6	7	19	18	+1	27	D	W	L	D	D			
7 OFI	20	7	5	8	23	24	-1	26	W	L	W	W	L			
8 Panathinaikos	20	6	10	4	22	21	+1	26	D	W	D	D	L			
9 Xanthi	20	6	7	7	17	17	+0	25	W	D	W	L	W			
10 Panionios	20	8	1	11	22	27	-5	25	L	W	D	L	D			
11 Panthrakikos	20	6	4	10	19	25	-6	22	L	L	D	D	L			
12 AEK Athens	20	6	4	10	17	22	-5	22	W	D	W	D	L			
13 Aris	20	3	10	7	19	30	-11	19	D	D	D	L	W			
14 Veria	20	4	7	9	14	25	-11	19	L	L	D	L	L			
15 Plataniás	20	4	6	10	15	26	-11	18	L	L	D	D	L			
16 Kerkyra	20	2	8	10	9	26	-17	14	L	D	D	L	L			

TURKEY Süper Lig																
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games		Most recent first					
1 Galatasaray	20	10	7	3	38	24	+14	37	D	W	L	D	W			
2 Antalyaspor	20	10	3	7	32	29	+3	33	W	L	L	L	W			
3 Beşiktaş	20	8	8	4	43	31	+12	32	D	L	D	W	D			
4 Fenerbahçe	20	8	7	5	30	24	+6	31	L	W	D	L	L			
5 Kasımpaşa	20	8	6	6	29	21	+8	30	D	W	W	L	L			
6 Eskişehirspor	20	7	8	5	34	24	+10	29	D	W	D	L	D			
7 Bursaspor	20	6	10	4	30	26	+4	28	D	L	W	D	D			
8 Karabükspor	20	8	4	8	28	32	-4	28	D	L	W	W	W			
9 Trabzonspor	20	7	6	7	25	22	+3	27	W	L	L	D	L			
10 Gençlerbirliği	20	6	9	5	32	31	+1	27	L	W	W	D	D			
11 Sivasspor	20	7	5	8	23	28	-5	26	W	L	D	W	L			
12 İstanbul BB	20	7	4	9	25	24	+1	25	L	W	D	W	W			
13 Kayserispor	20	7	4	9	27	32	-5	25	W	W	L	L	W			
14 Orduspor	20	5	9	6	22	22	+0	24	L	L	D	D	D			
15 Gaziantepspor	20	5	6	9	18	30	-12	21	L	L	D	W	D			
16 Elazığspor	20	4	9	7	16	30	-14	21	D	W	D	L	D			
17 Mersin İdmanyurd	20	4	8	8	22	28	-6	20	D	W	D	L	W			
18 Akhisar Beledi...	20	3	7	10	14	30	-16	16	L	L	D	W	D			

HOLLAND Eredivisie



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 PSV	21	15	1	5	73	22	+51	46	WWLWD
2 Ajax	21	12	7	2	50	23	+27	43	WLWDW
3 Twente	21	12	6	3	37	18	+19	42	LDWW
4 Feyenoord	21	12	5	4	40	27	+13	41	WDLWW
5 Utrecht	21	11	6	4	33	22	+11	39	WWWDW
6 Vitesse	21	11	5	5	39	26	+13	38	LWLLD
7 NEC	21	8	6	7	28	34	-6	30	WWLLD
8 ADO Den Haag	21	5	10	6	33	39	-6	25	LDWL
9 Heracles	21	5	9	7	40	43	-3	24	DLWDL
10 AZ	21	6	6	9	31	35	-4	24	LWWLW
11 RKC Waalwijk	21	5	8	8	24	27	-3	23	LLDDD
12 Groningen	21	6	5	10	20	32	-12	23	WLLLD
13 NAC Breda	21	6	5	10	23	37	-14	23	WWWLD
14 Heerenveen	21	5	7	9	29	40	-11	22	DWLWL
15 Roda JC	21	4	8	9	29	42	-13	20	DDWWD
16 PEC Zwolle	21	4	7	10	21	34	-13	19	LDWDL
17 VVV	21	3	6	12	23	46	-23	15	LLLLL
18 Willem II	21	2	7	12	19	45	-26	13	LLDDL



# MELBOURNE HEART FC

## #INTERACTIVE MATCH

Saturday 9 February 2013

Melbourne Heart FC vs Perth Glory FC

EMBRACING ALL THINGS  
DIGITAL



**EA SPORTS FIFA 13 competition with winner to play on big screen at half time**

**Hyundai Veloster Inflatable Car match on the pitch**

**Foundation members interviewing a Melbourne Heart player at half time  
(to be uploaded online before end of half time)**

**Save the Children Man of the Match and Fundraiser**

**Players to wear Fan-Designed Third Strip with digital integration**

**Win a signed 3rd Strip for the most membership referrals through the 'Heart Fan' app**



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